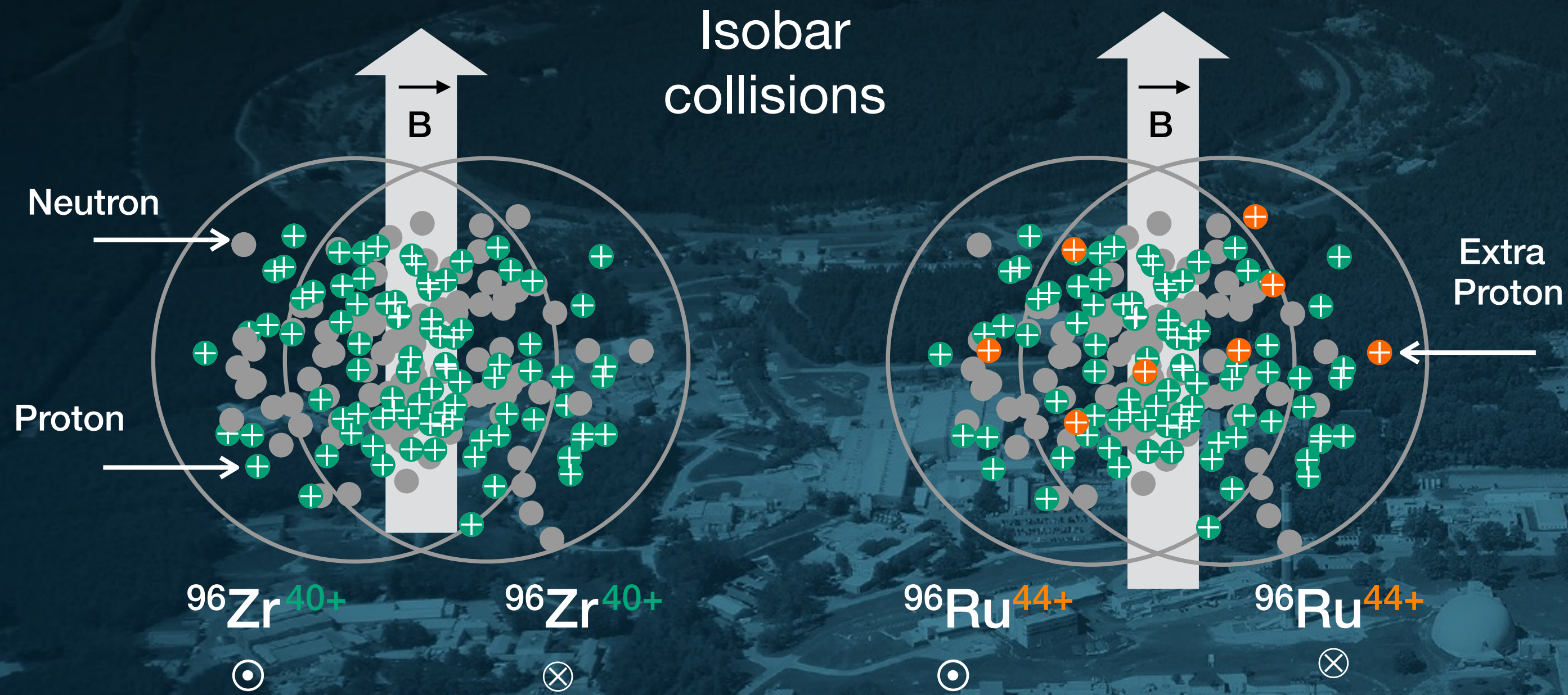


Isobar  
collisions



 **Brookhaven**  
National Laboratory



# Blind analysis of isobar data for the CME search by the STAR collaboration

Based on: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2109.00131> Phys. Rev. C 105, 014901 (2022)

Prithwish Tribedy  
(Brookhaven National Laboratory)

RIKEN BNL Research Center

**Physics Opportunities from the RHIC Isobar Run**

This workshop will be held virtually.  
January 25–28, 2022

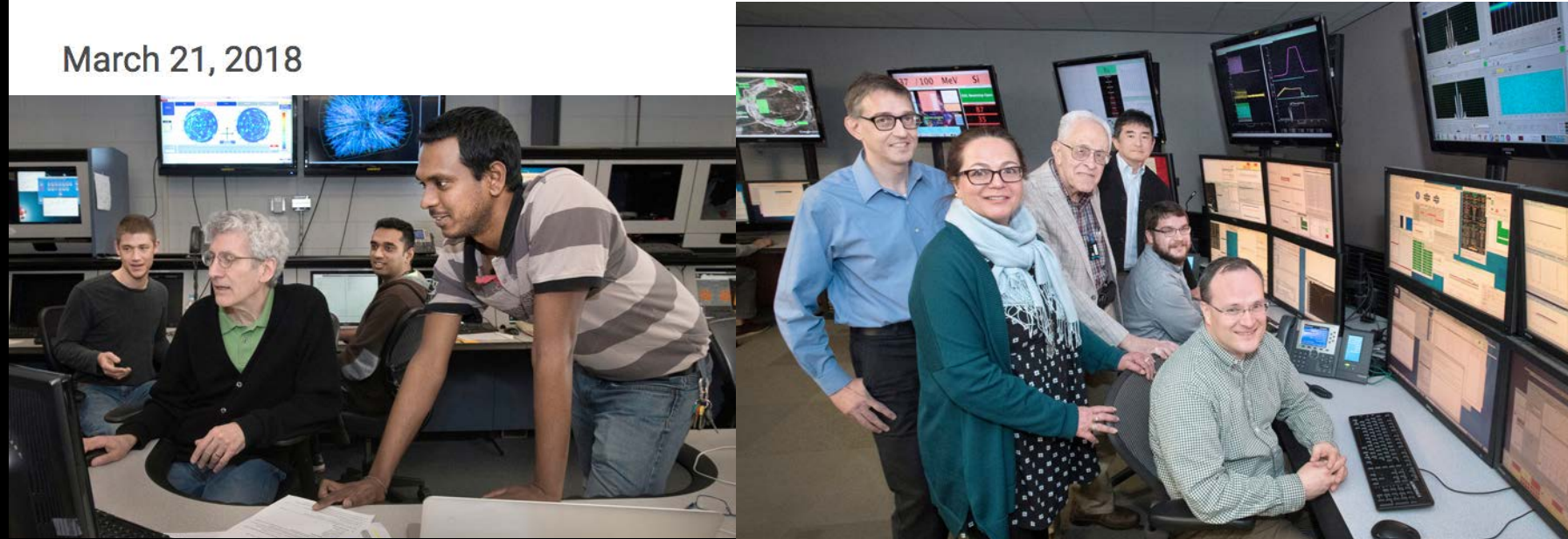


# Isobar program at RHIC: journey since 2018

## Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider Begins 18th Year of Experiments

First smashups with 'isobar' ions and low-energy gold-gold collisions will test earlier hints of exciting discoveries as accelerator physicists tune up technologies to enable future science

March 21, 2018



2018

2019

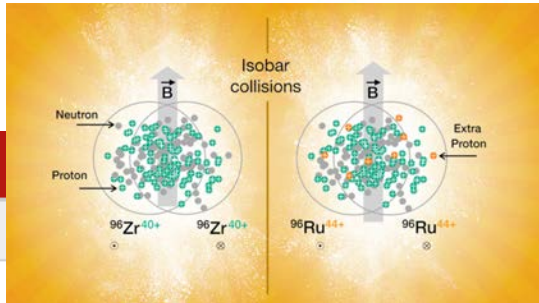
2020

2021

## Results from Search for 'Chiral Magnetic Effect' at RHIC

Collisions of 'isobars' test effect of magnetic field, searching for signs of a broken symmetry

August 31, 2021



arXiv.org > nucl-ex > arXiv:2109.00131

Nuclear Experiment

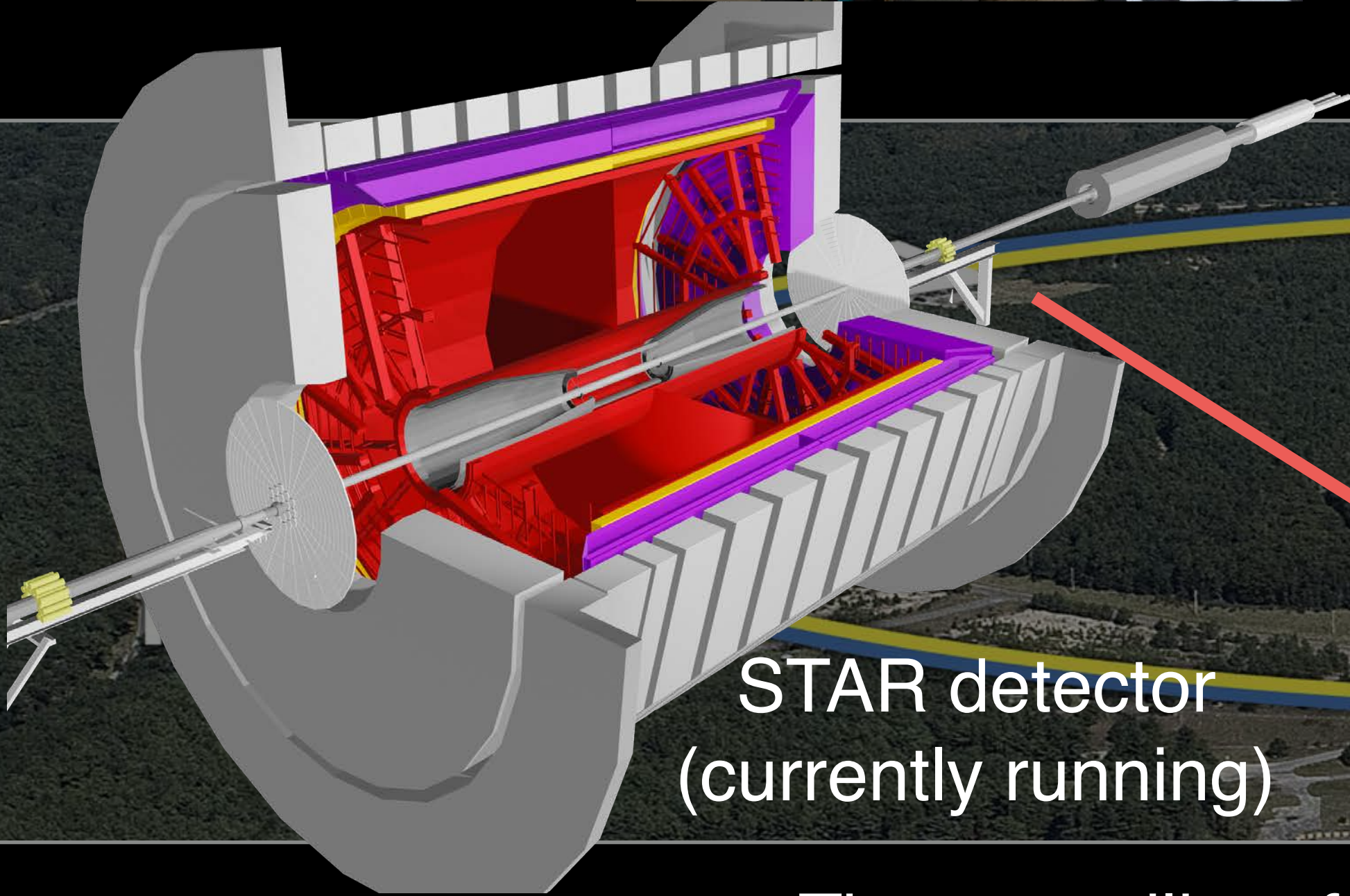
[Submitted on 1 Sep 2021]

### Search for the Chiral Magnetic Effect with Isobar Collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV by the STAR Collaboration at RHIC

STAR Collaboration: M. S. Abdallah, B. E. Aboona, J. Adam, L. Adamczyk, J. R. Adams, J. K. Adkins, G. Agakishiev, I. Aggarwal, M. M. Aggarwal, Z. Ahammed, I. Alekseev, D. M. An, Ashraf, F. G. Atetalla, A. Attri, G. S. Averichev, V. Bairathi, W. Baker, J. G. Ball Cap, K. Barish, A. Behera, R. Bellwied, P. Bhagat, A. Bhasin, J. Bielcik, J. Bielcikova, I. G. Bordyuzhin, J. X. Z. Cai, H. Caines, M. Calderón de la Barca Sánchez, D. Cebra, I. Chakaberia, P. Chaloupka, B. K. Chan, F-H. Chang, Z. Chang, N. Chankova-Bunzarova, A. Chatterjee, S. Chattop, Chen, Z. Chen, J. Cheng, M. Chevalier, S. Choudhury, W. Christie, X. Chu, H. J. Crawford, M. Csanád, M. Daugherty, T. G. Dedovich, I. M. Deppner, A. A. Derevschikov, A. Dhamija, J. L. Drachenberg, E. Duckworth, J. C. Dunlop, N. Elsey, J. Engelage, G. Eppley, S. Esumi, O. Evdokimov, A. Ewigleben, O. Eyser, R. Fatemi, F. M. Fawzi, S. Fazio, P. Federic, J. Fedori, Fisyak, A. Francisco, C. Fu, L. Fulek, C. A. Gagliardi, T. Galatyuk, F. Geurts, N. Ghimire, A. Gibson, K. Gopal, X. Gou, D. Grosnick, A. Gupta, W. Guryn, A. I. Hamad et al. (298 addit

Search for the chiral magnetic effect with isobar collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV by the STAR Collaboration at the BNL Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider

M. S. Abdallah *et al.* (STAR Collaboration)  
Phys. Rev. C **105**, 014901 – Published 3 January 2022



STAR detector  
(currently running)

RHIC

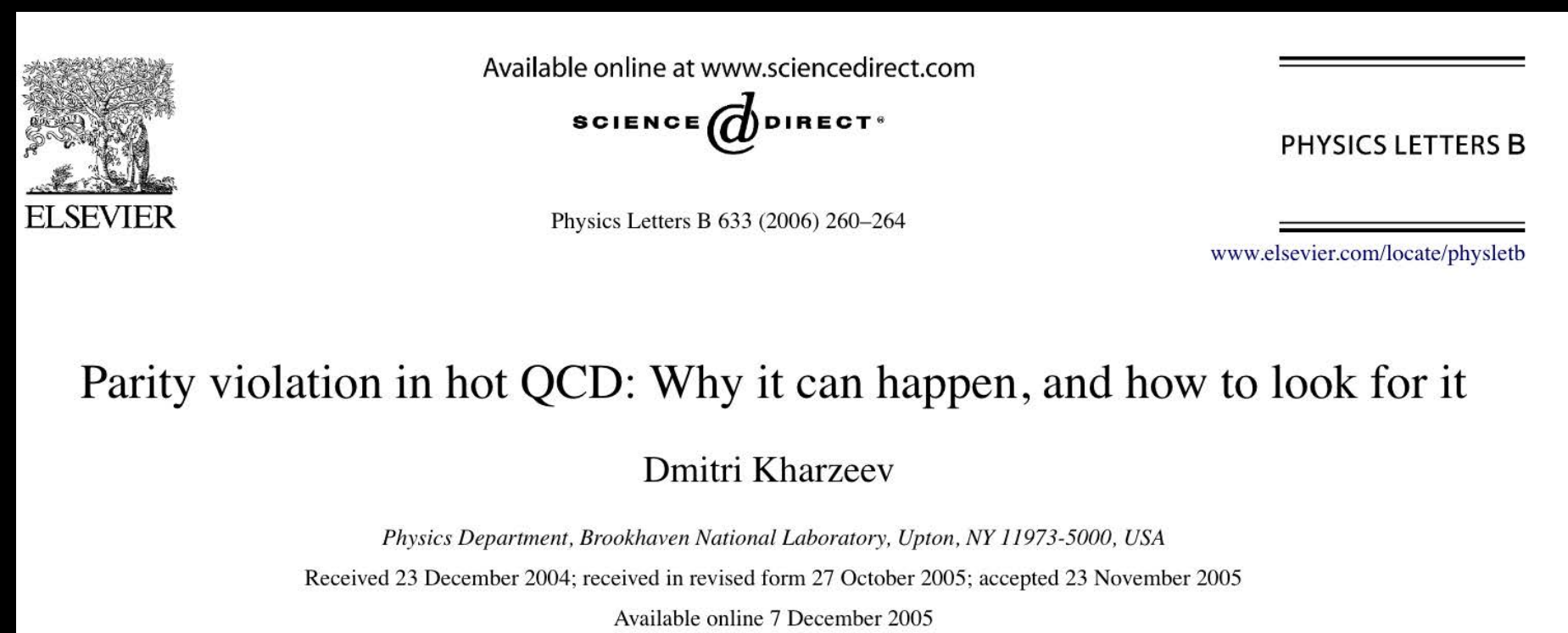
STAR

RHIC: known for species (U, Au, Ru, Zr, Cu, Al..) and energy ( $\gamma \sim 100$ -3.85) maneuver capability

STAR: known for precision measurement capability of hadrons over wide acceptance

The versatility of RHIC and the unique capabilities of the STAR detector were crucial to the success of our program

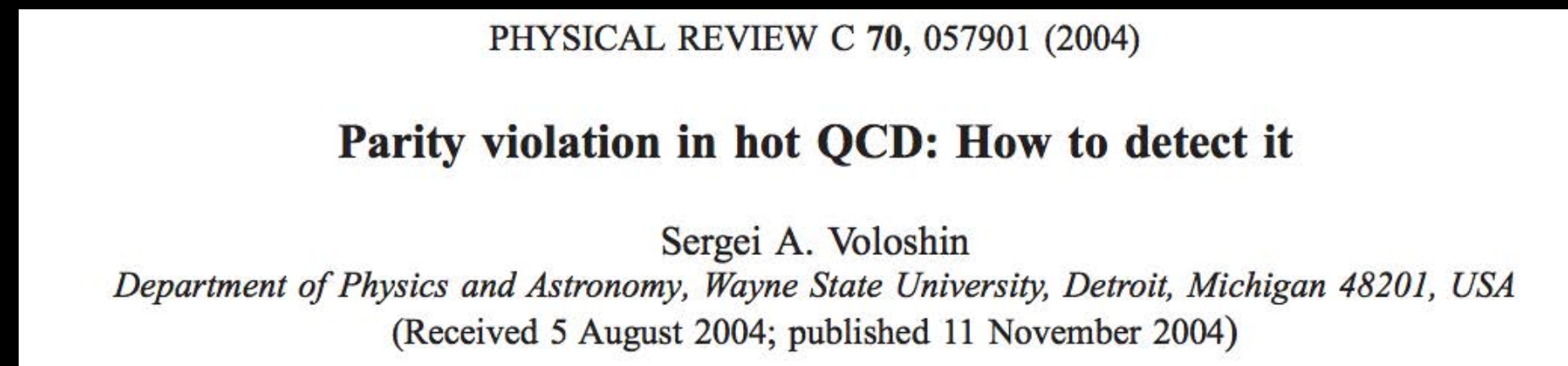
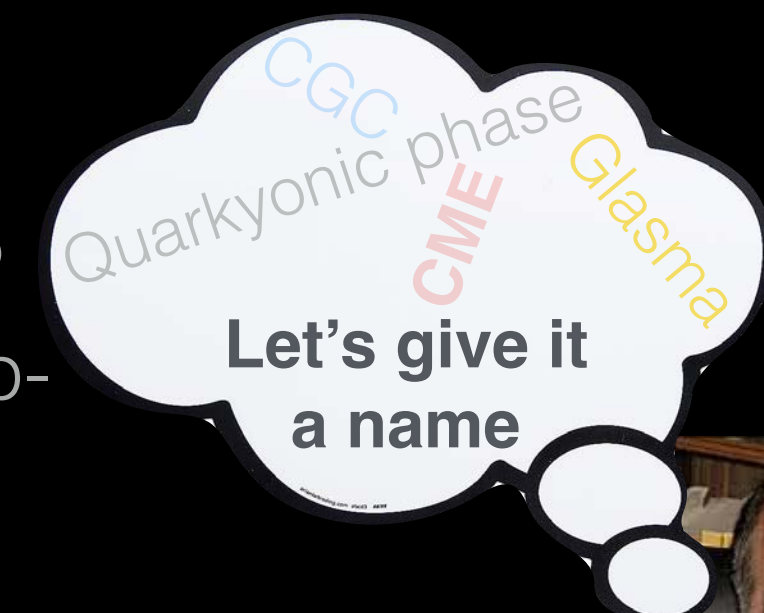
# Parity Violation in Hot QCD: Chiral Magnetic Effect



## Early theory paper

Kharzeev, hep-ph/0406125

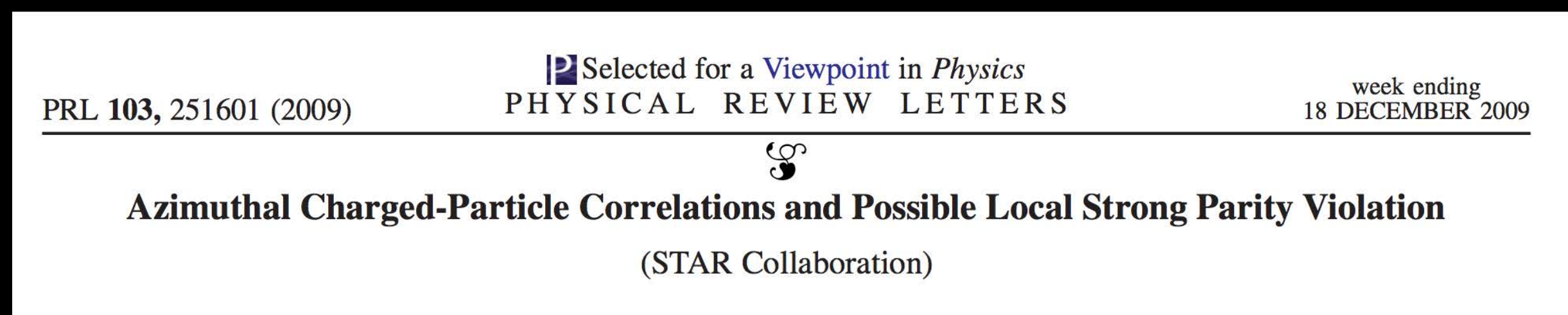
Also see : Kharzeev et al, hep-ph/9906401, Kharzeev et al, hep-ph/9804221



## First method paper

Voloshin, hep-ph/0406311

Also: Finch et al Phys.Rev.C 65 (2002) 014908



## First experimental paper

STAR collaboration, arXiv:0909.1739



Search for the chiral magnetic effect with isobar collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV by the STAR Collaboration at the BNL Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider

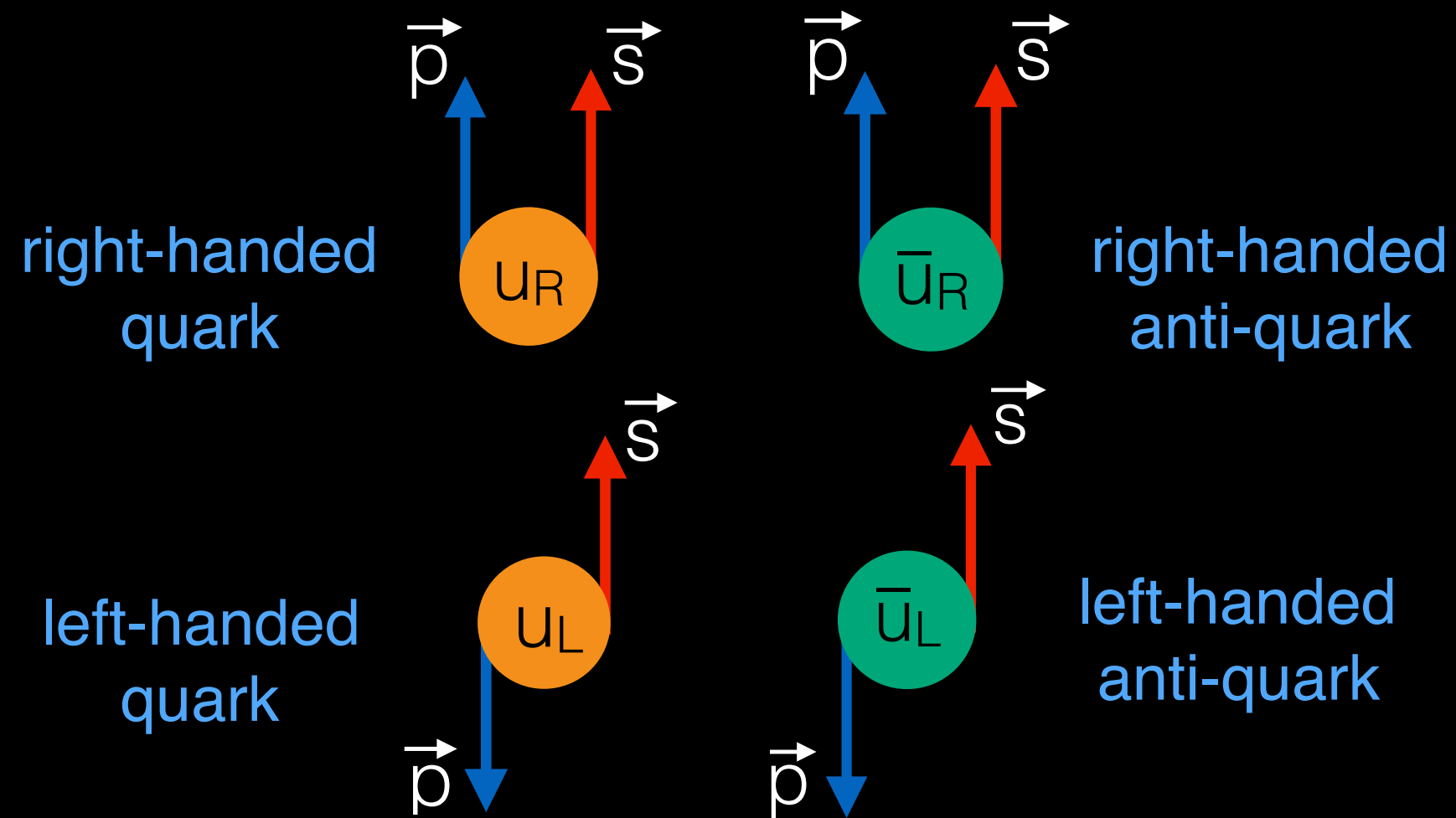
M. S. Abdallah *et al.* (STAR Collaboration)  
Phys. Rev. C **105**, 014901 – Published 3 January 2022

## Blind analysis of the Isobar data

STAR collaboration, arXiv:2109.00131

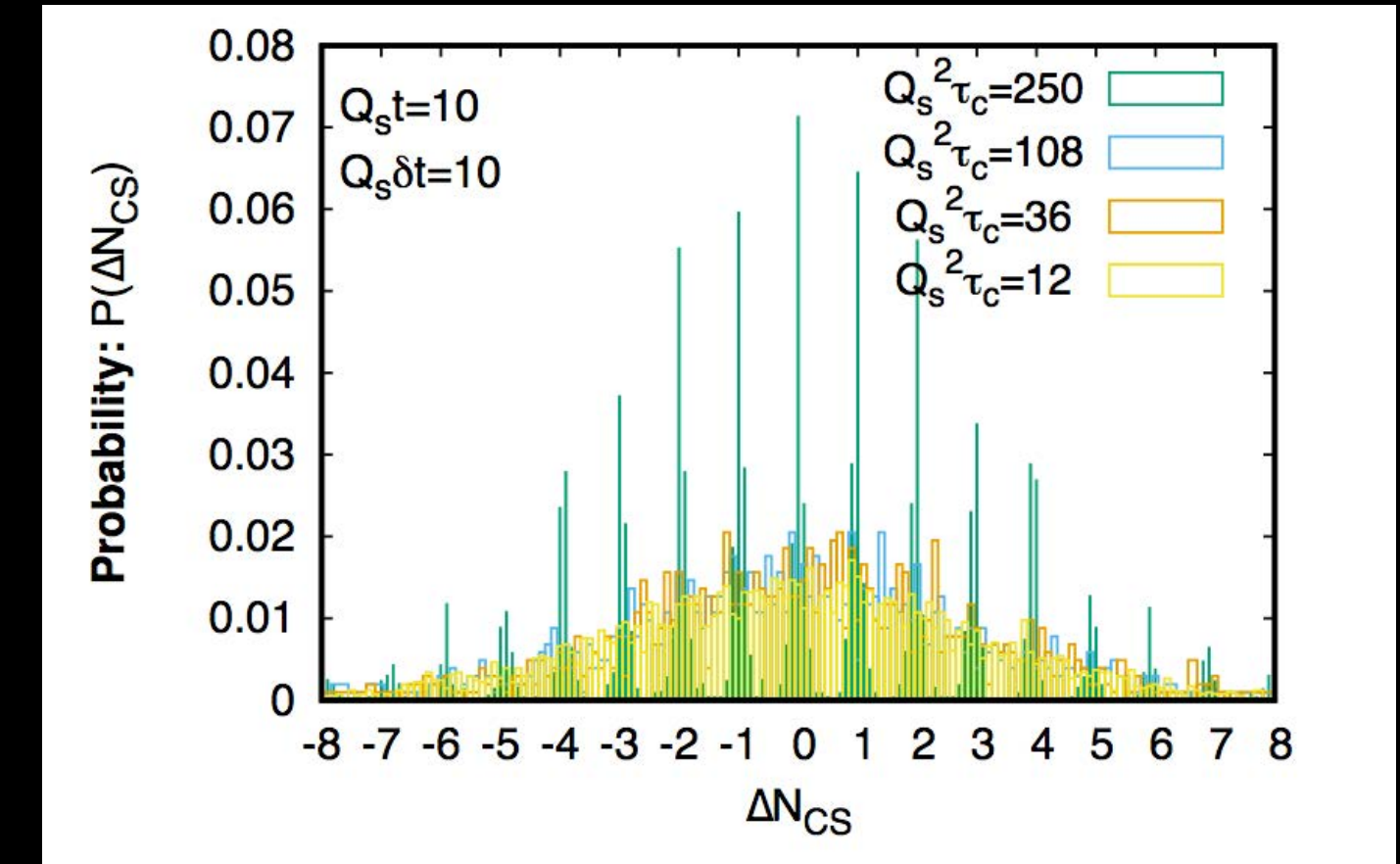
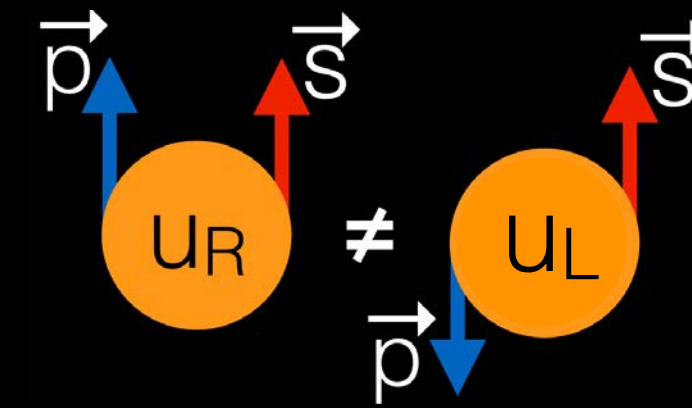
# The chiral magnetic effect (CME) in four steps

1 Deconfined medium of massless quark (chiral symmetry restored)



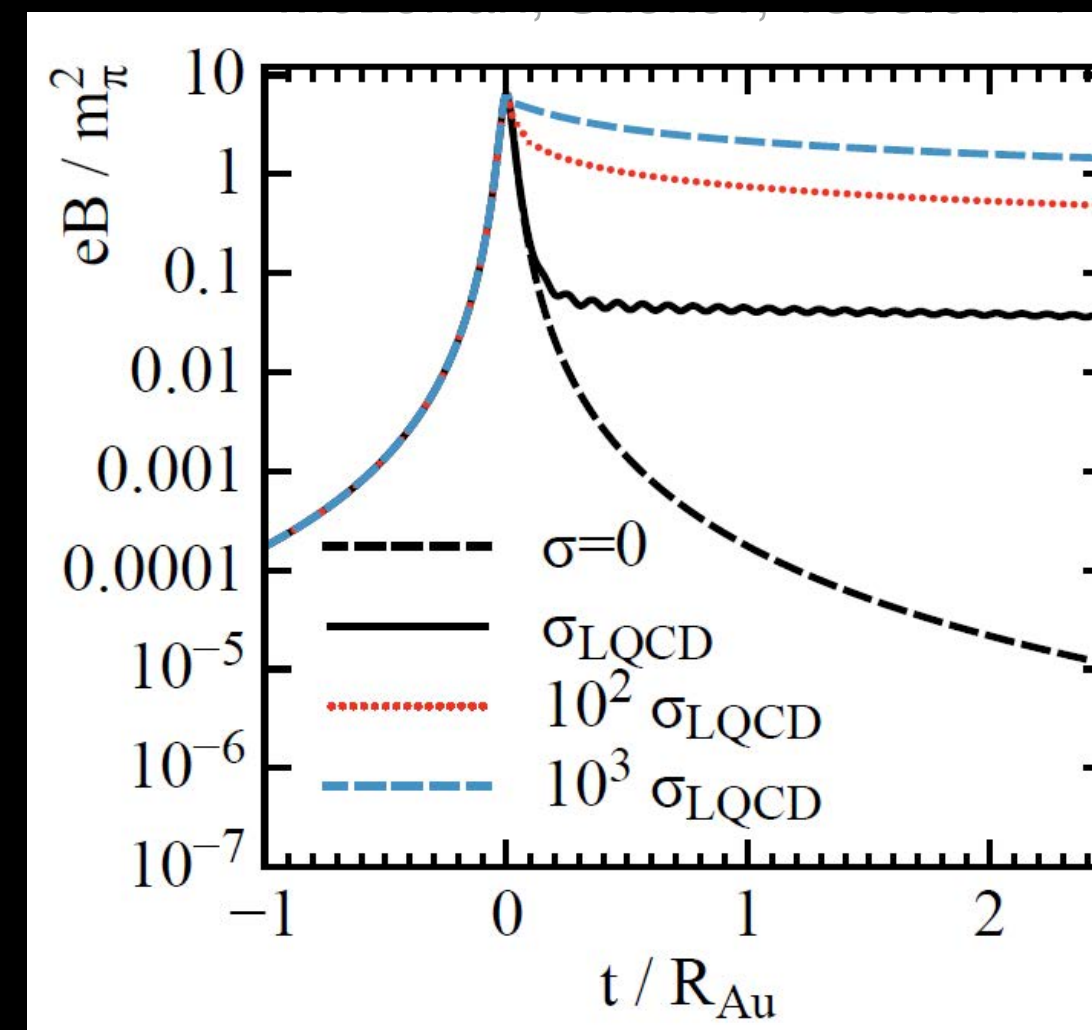
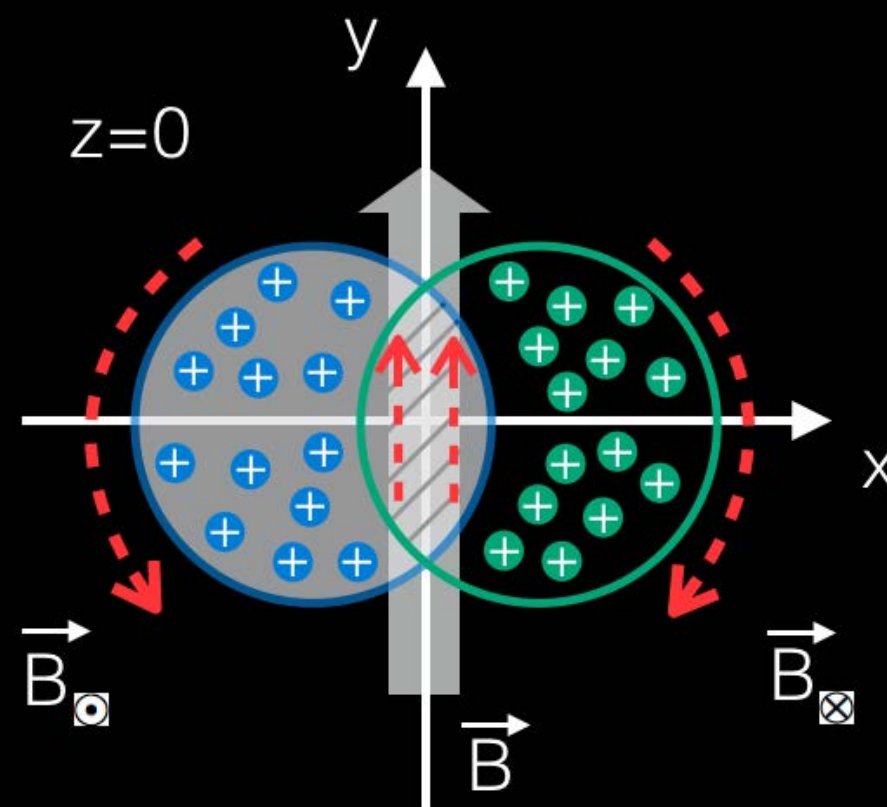
Kharzeev, McLerran, Warringa 0711.0950

2 Mechanism to create imbalance of left & right handed quarks

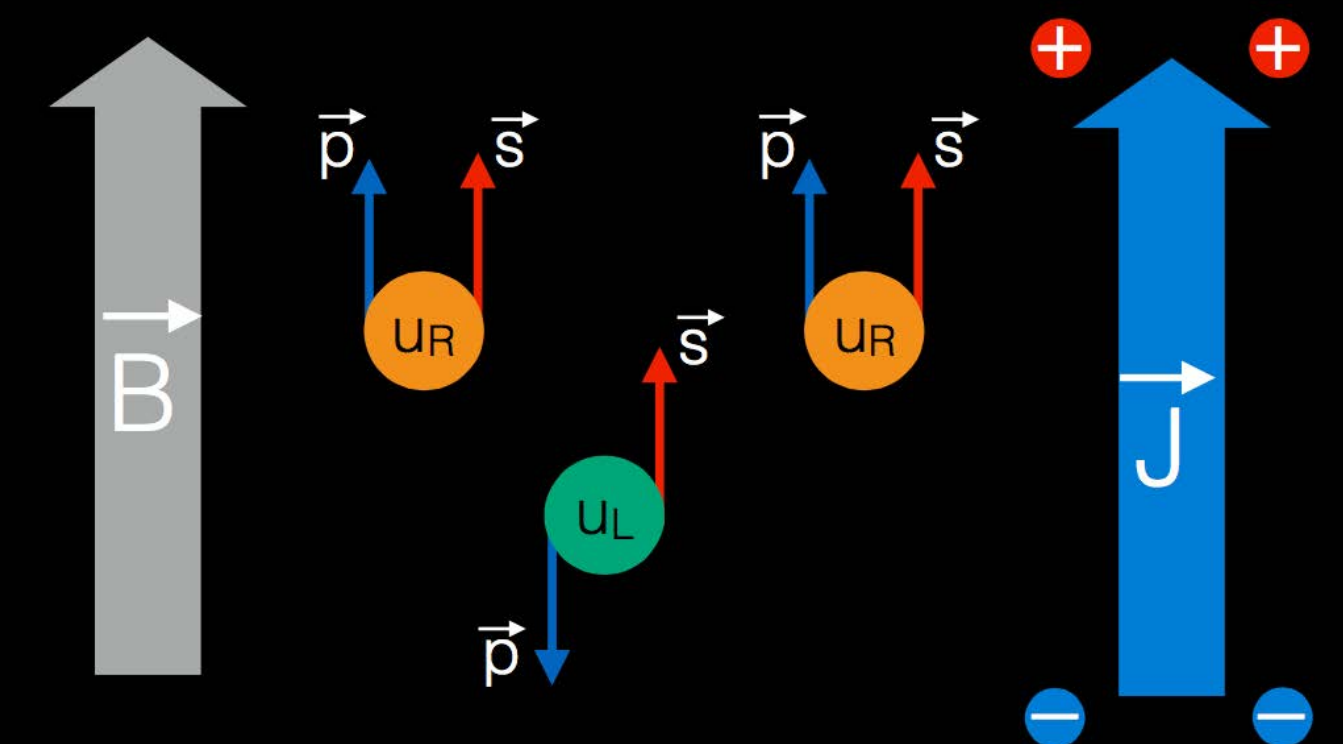


Kharzeev et al, hep-ph/0109253, Mace et al, 1601.07342, Muller et. al.1606.00342, Lappi et al,1708.08625

3 Strong B-field



4 The Chiral Magnetic Effect ( $J \parallel B$ )



Kharzeev, arXiv:hep-ph/0406125

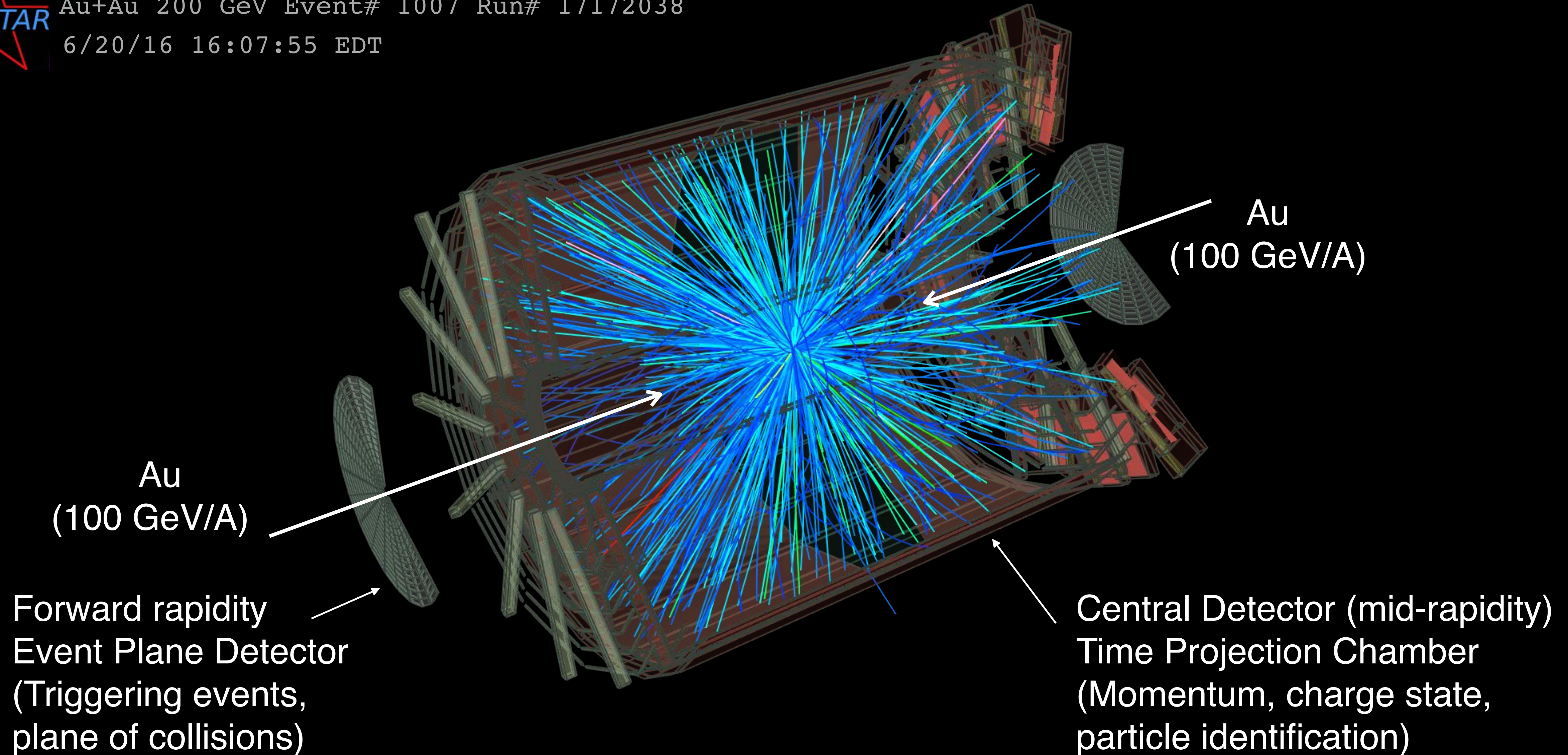
# Experimental Observables for CME search

# A gold-gold collision @ STAR detector



Au+Au 200 GeV Event# 1007 Run# 17172038  
6/20/16 16:07:55 EDT

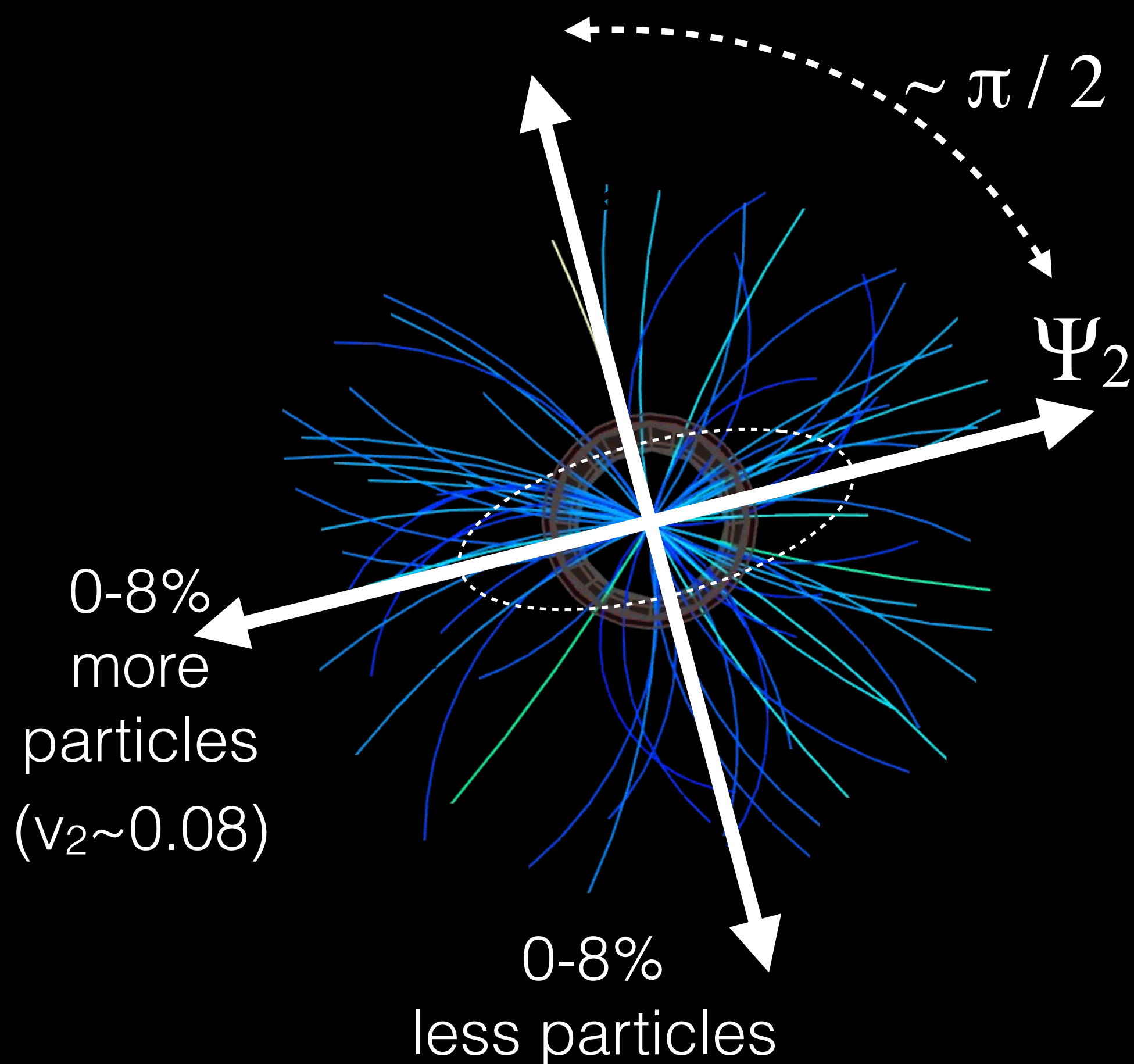
<https://www.star.bnl.gov/~dmitry/edisplay/>



# Elliptic anisotropy in particle production

Elliptic anisotropy is measured by correlation between two particles

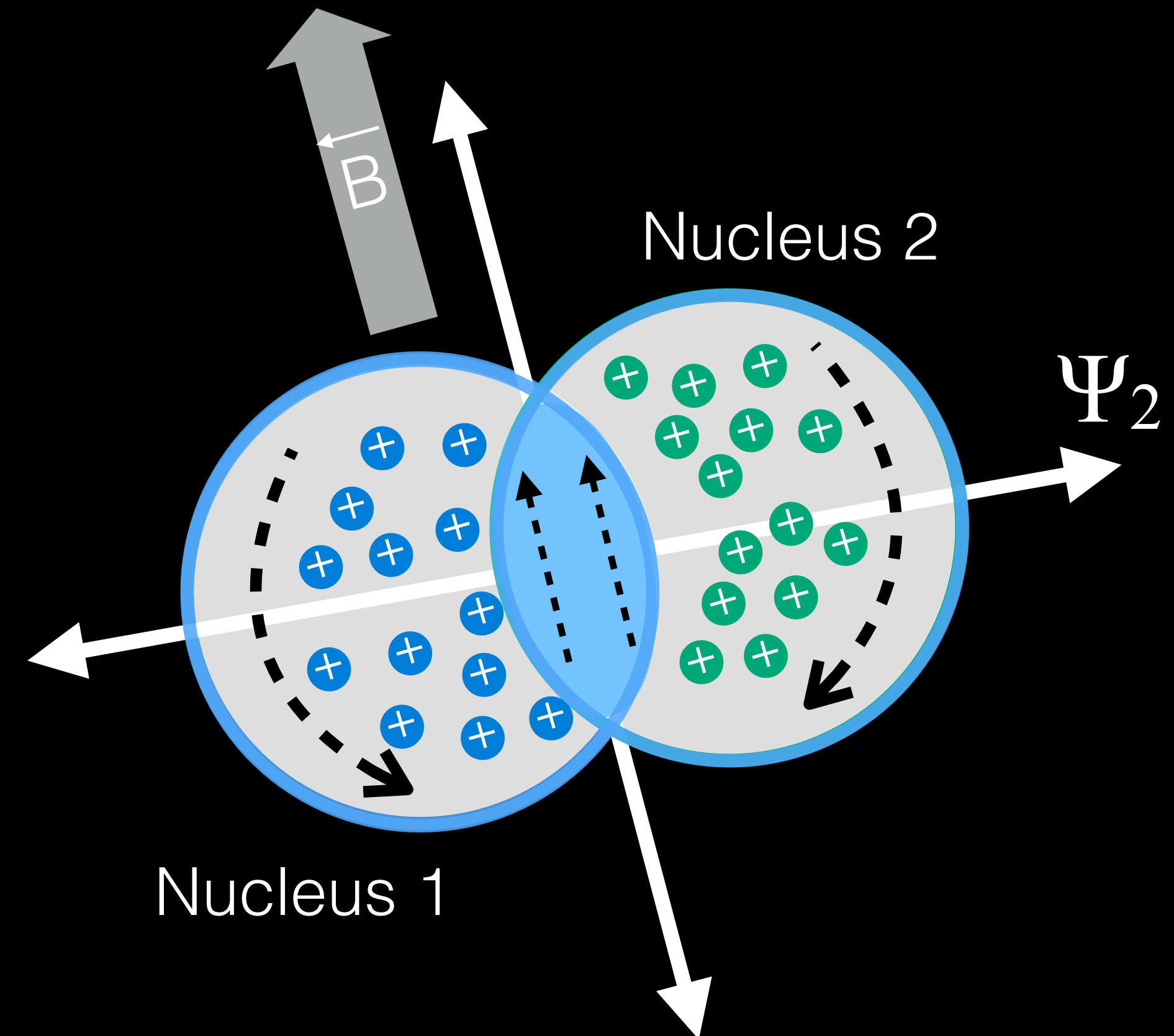
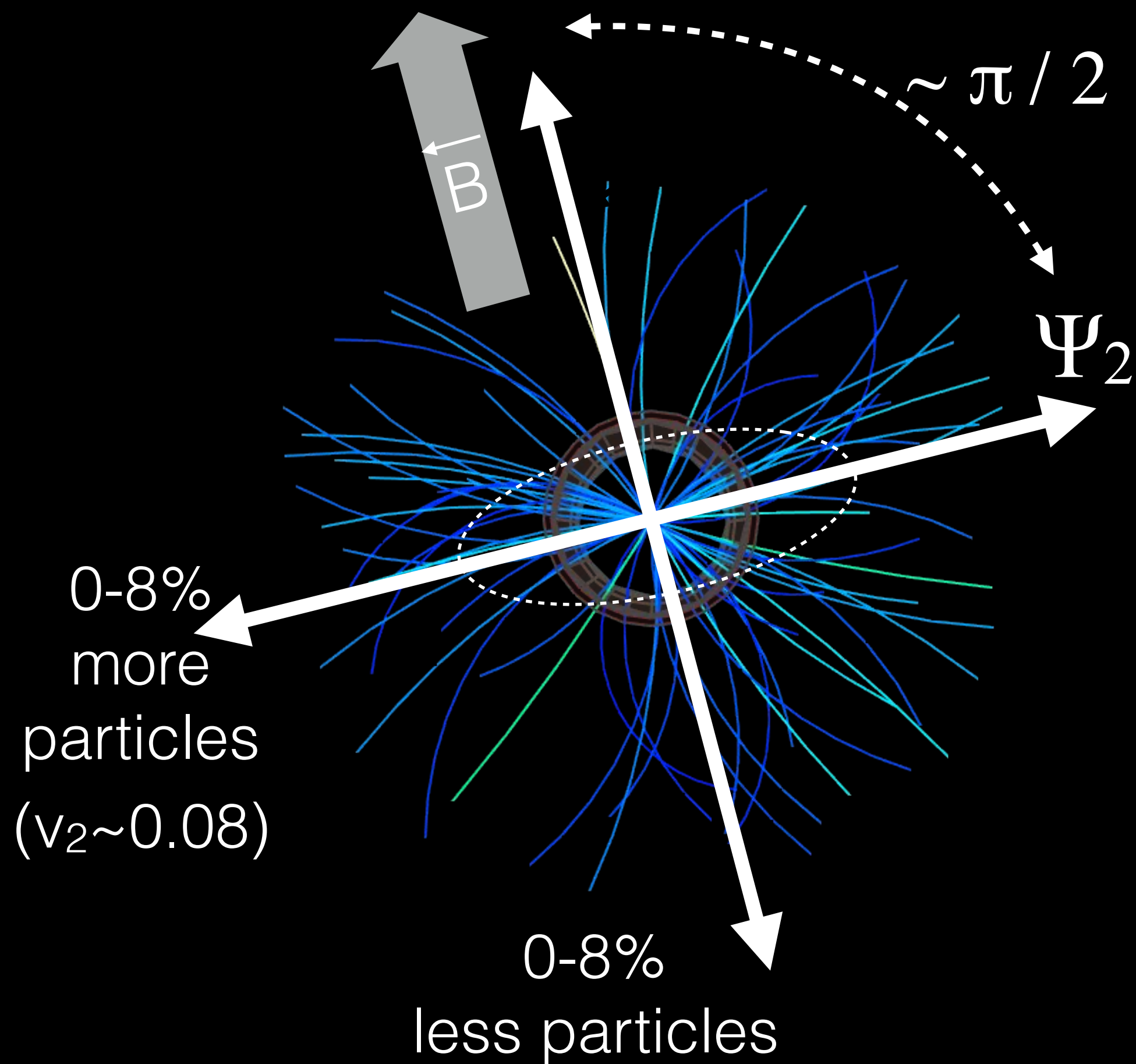
$$v_2\{EP\} = \langle \cos(2\phi_1 - 2\Psi_2) \rangle \quad v_2\{2\}^2 = \langle \cos(2\phi_1 - 2\phi_2) \rangle$$



# Elliptic anisotropy and B-field direction

Elliptic anisotropy is measured by correlation between two particles

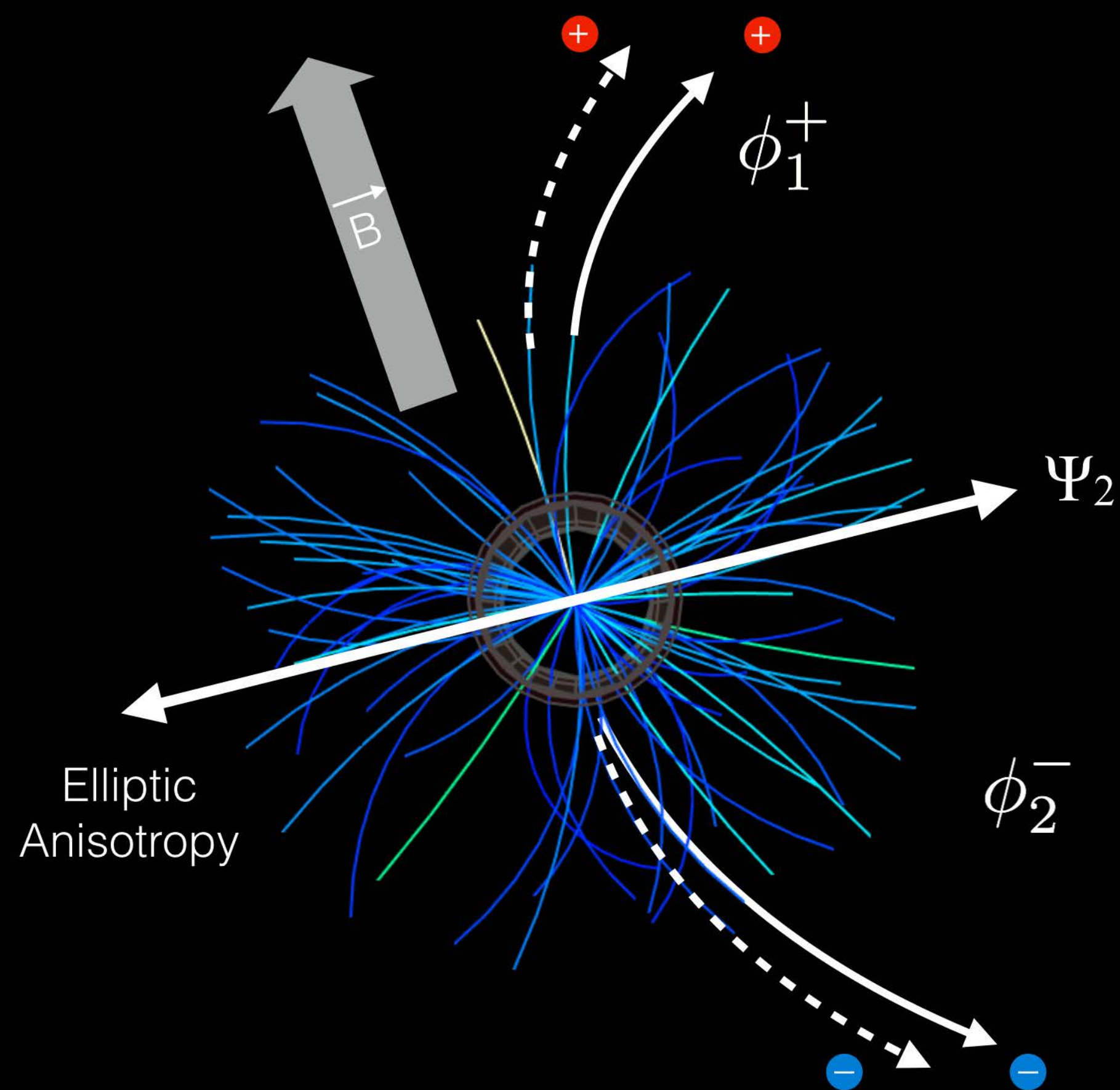
$$v_2\{EP\} = \langle \cos(2\phi_1 - 2\Psi_2) \rangle \quad v_2\{2\}^2 = \langle \cos(2\phi_1 - 2\phi_2) \rangle$$



The plane of elliptic anisotropy  $\Psi_2$  is correlated to B-field direction

# How to measure charge separation due to CME ?

Measure charge separation across  $\Psi_2$  using the correlator:



Voloshin, hep-ph/0406311

$$\gamma^{\alpha,\beta} = \langle \cos(\phi_1^\alpha + \phi_2^\beta - 2\Psi_2) \rangle$$

CME case :  $\gamma^{ss} \neq \gamma^{os}$

$$\gamma^{+-} = \cos(\pi/2 - \pi/2 + 0) = 1$$

$$\gamma^{++,- -} = \cos(\pi/2 + \pi/2 + 0) = -1$$

Quantity of interest:

$$\Rightarrow \Delta\gamma^{CME} = \gamma^{os} - \gamma^{ss} > 0$$

CME causes difference in opposite-sign & same-sign correlation

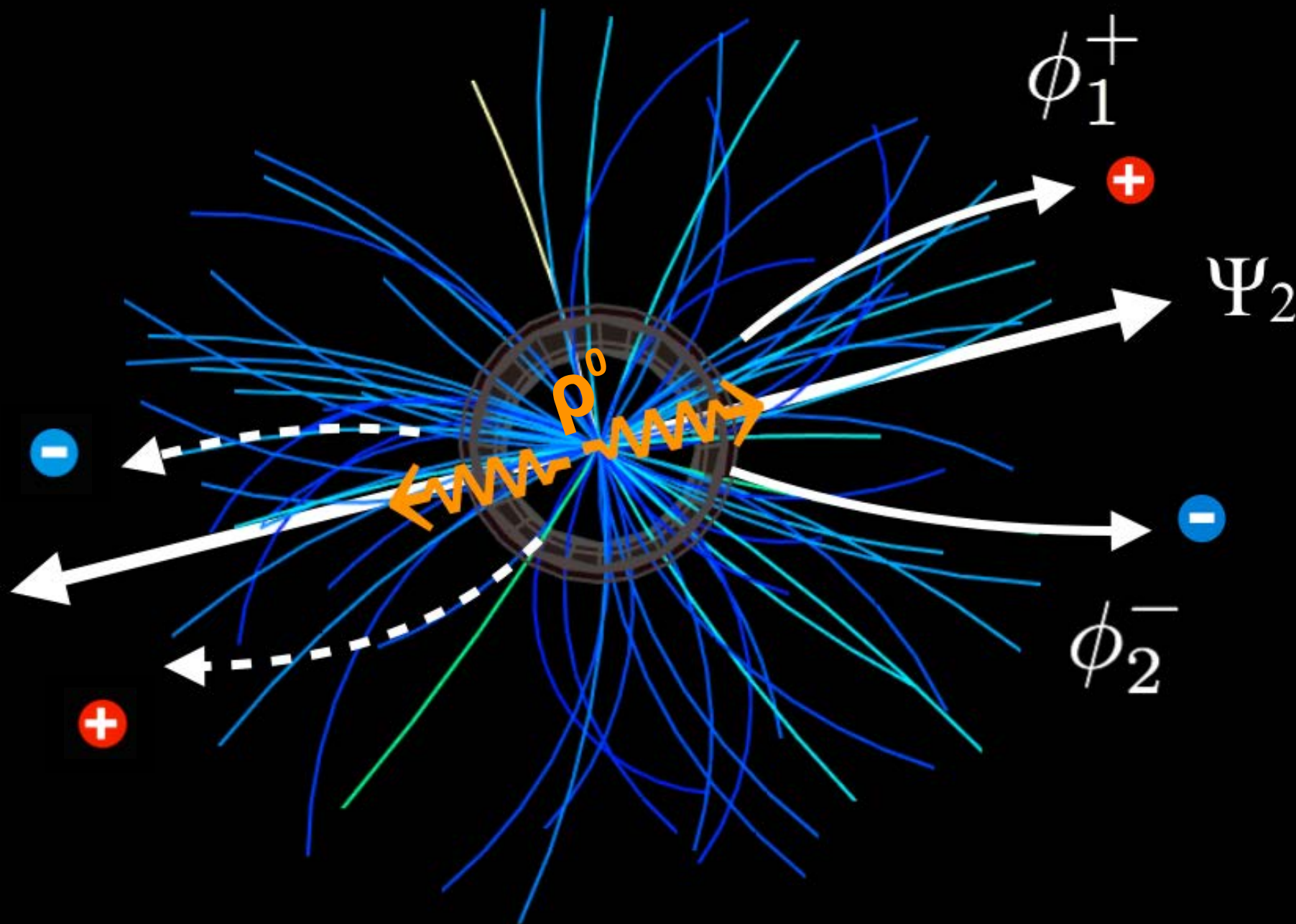
# Major source of background: decay of neutral clusters

Measure charge separation across  $\Psi_2$  using the correlator:

$$\gamma^{\alpha,\beta} = \langle \cos(\phi_1^\alpha + \phi_2^\beta - 2\Psi_2) \rangle$$

Flowing  
resonance decay:  $\gamma^{ss} \neq \gamma^{os}$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^{+-} &= \cos(0 + 0 + 0) = 1 \\ \gamma^{++,--} &= \cos(0 + \pi + 0) = -1 \end{aligned}$$



Voloshin, hep-ph/0406311

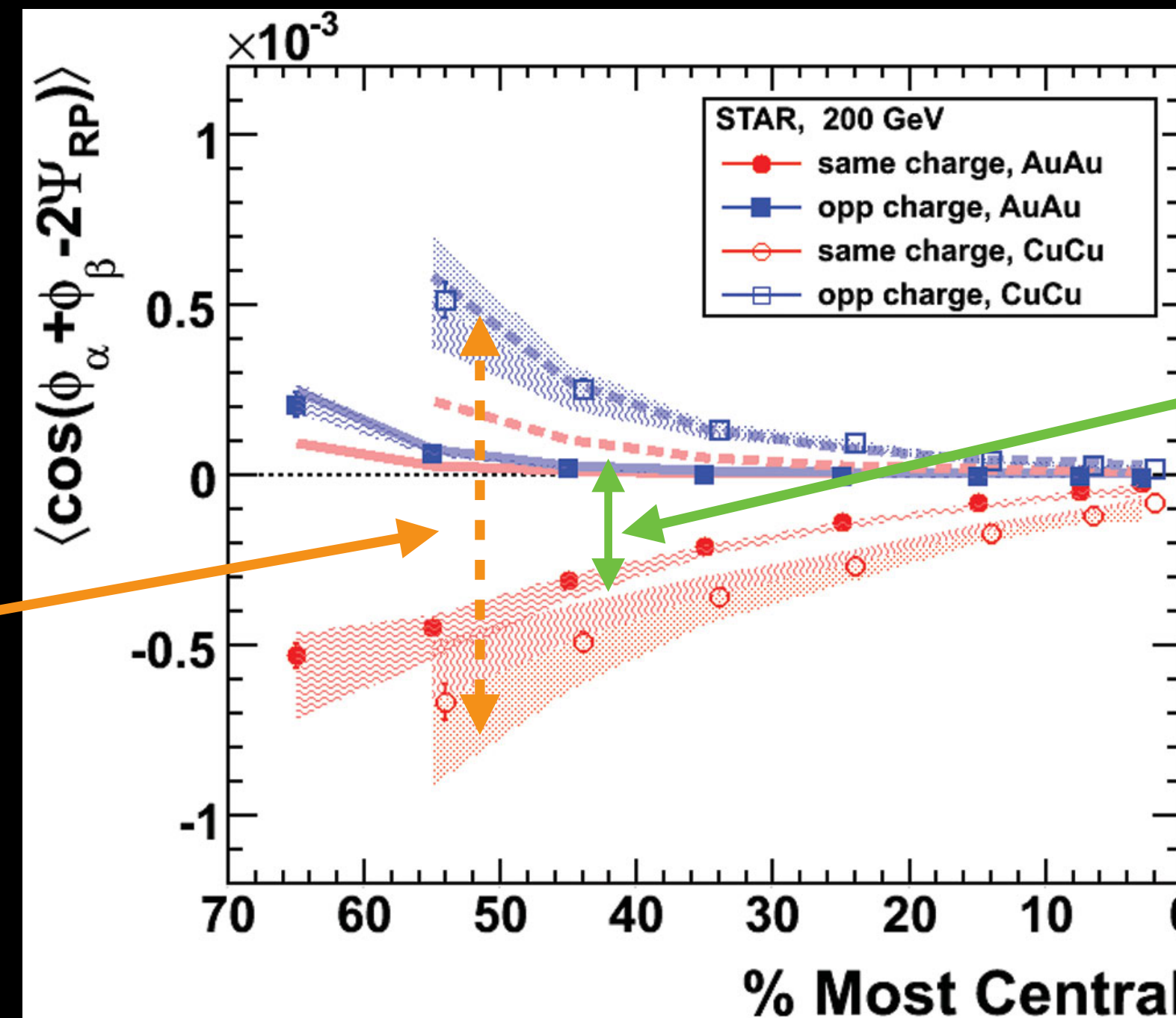
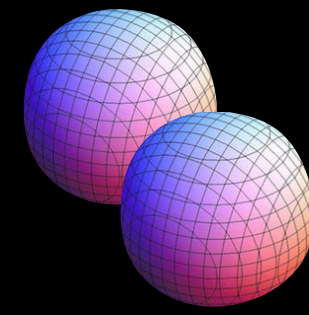
Non-CME effect such as flowing  
resonance decay can lead to difference

$$\Rightarrow \Delta\gamma^{reso} = \gamma^{os} - \gamma^{ss} \propto \frac{v_2^{reso}}{N}$$

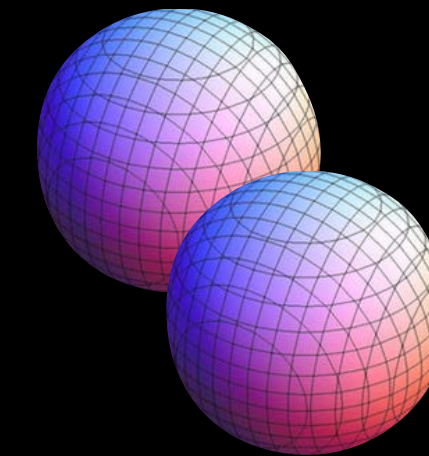
## Why we need isobars to search for CME ?

# The first measurements at RHIC

Cu+Cu

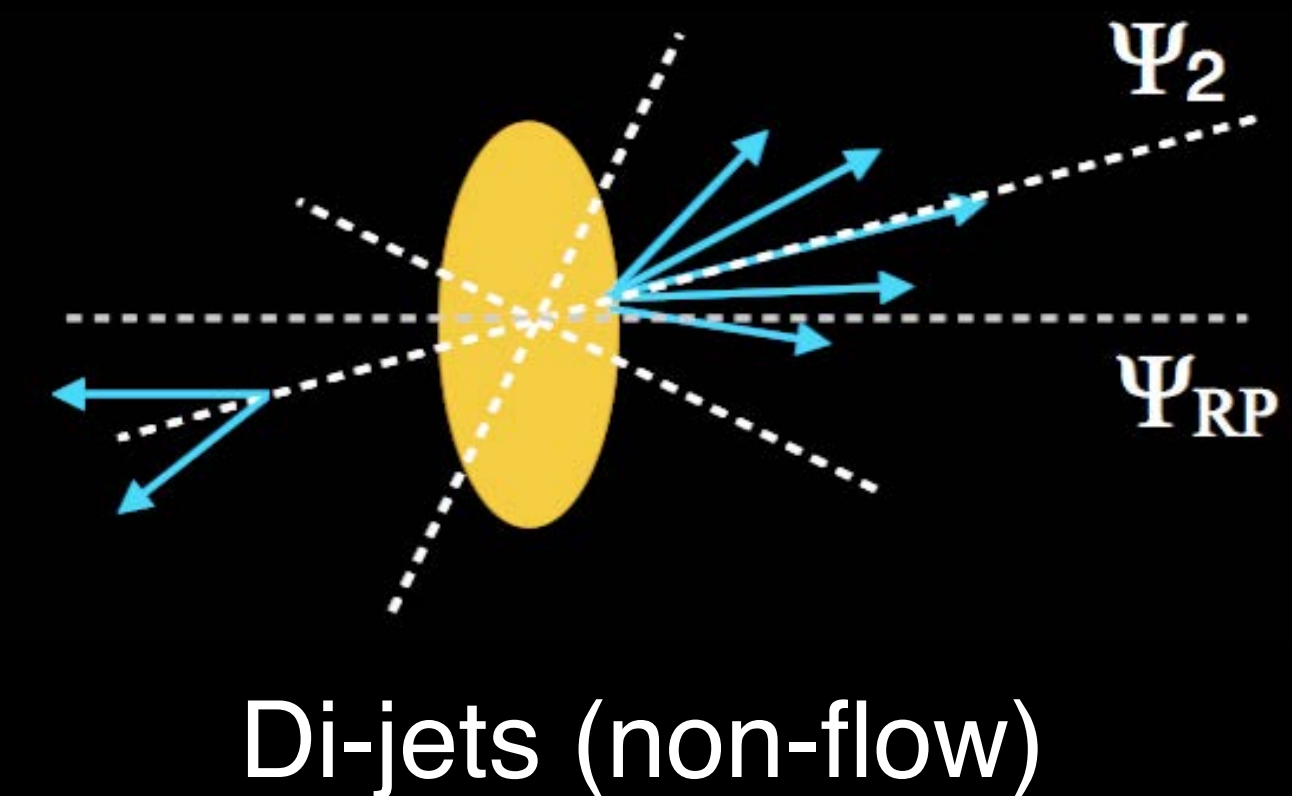
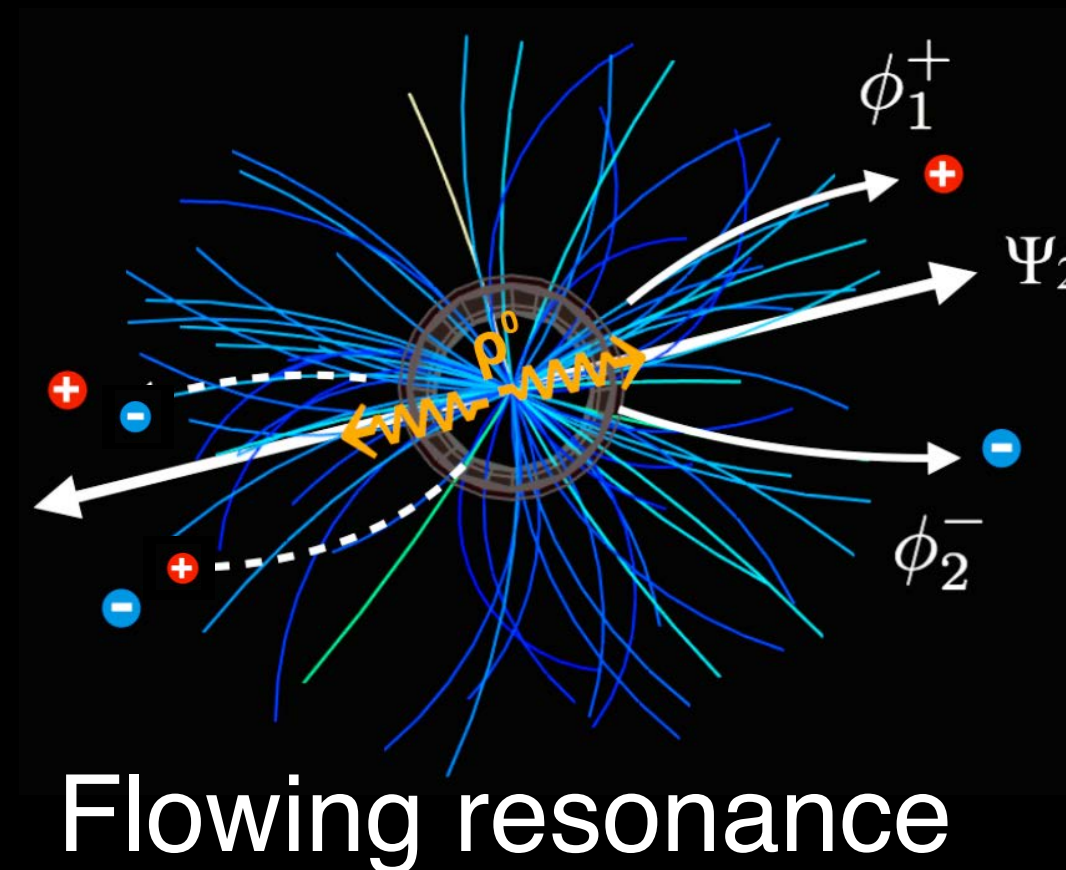
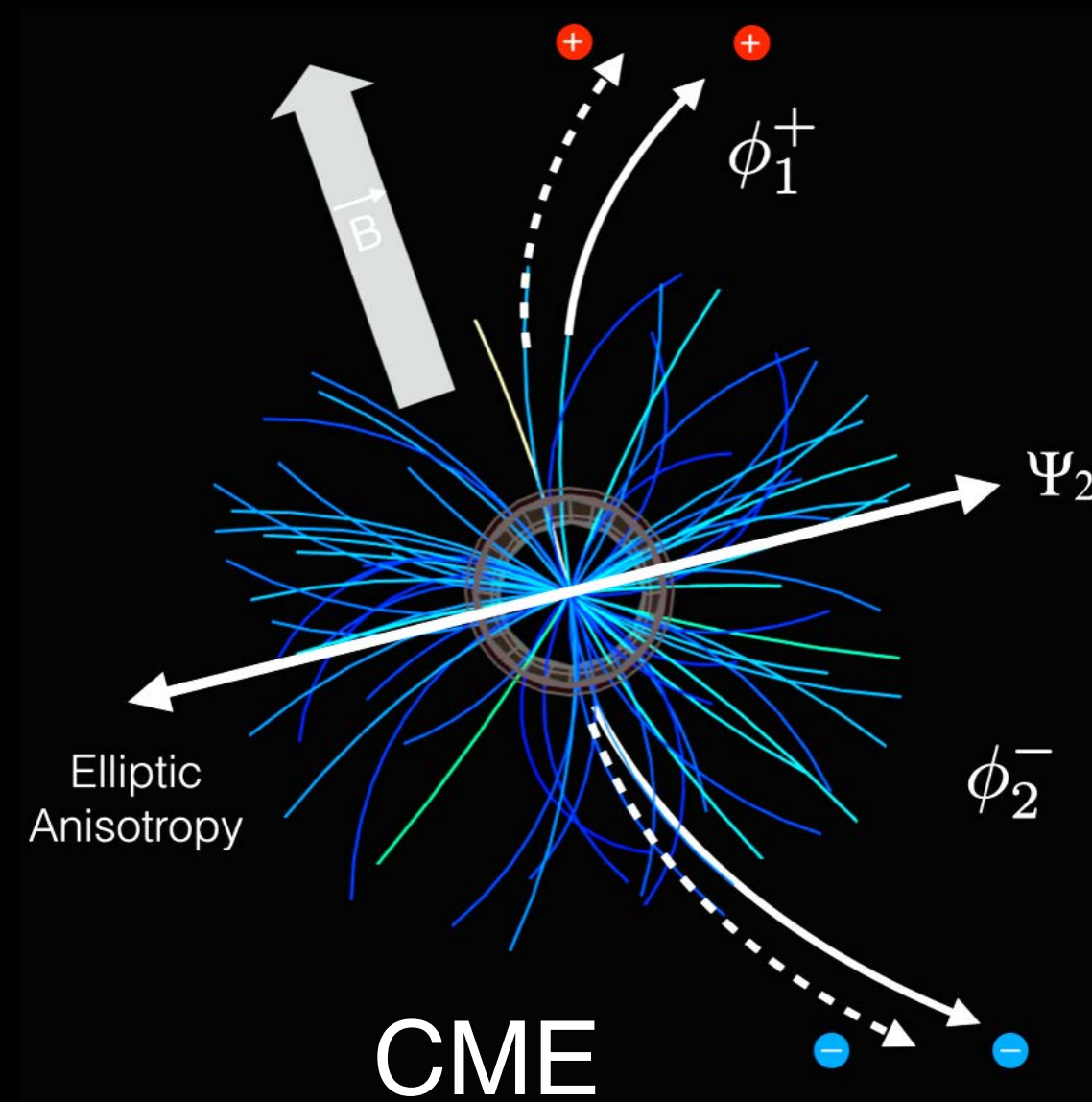


Au+Au

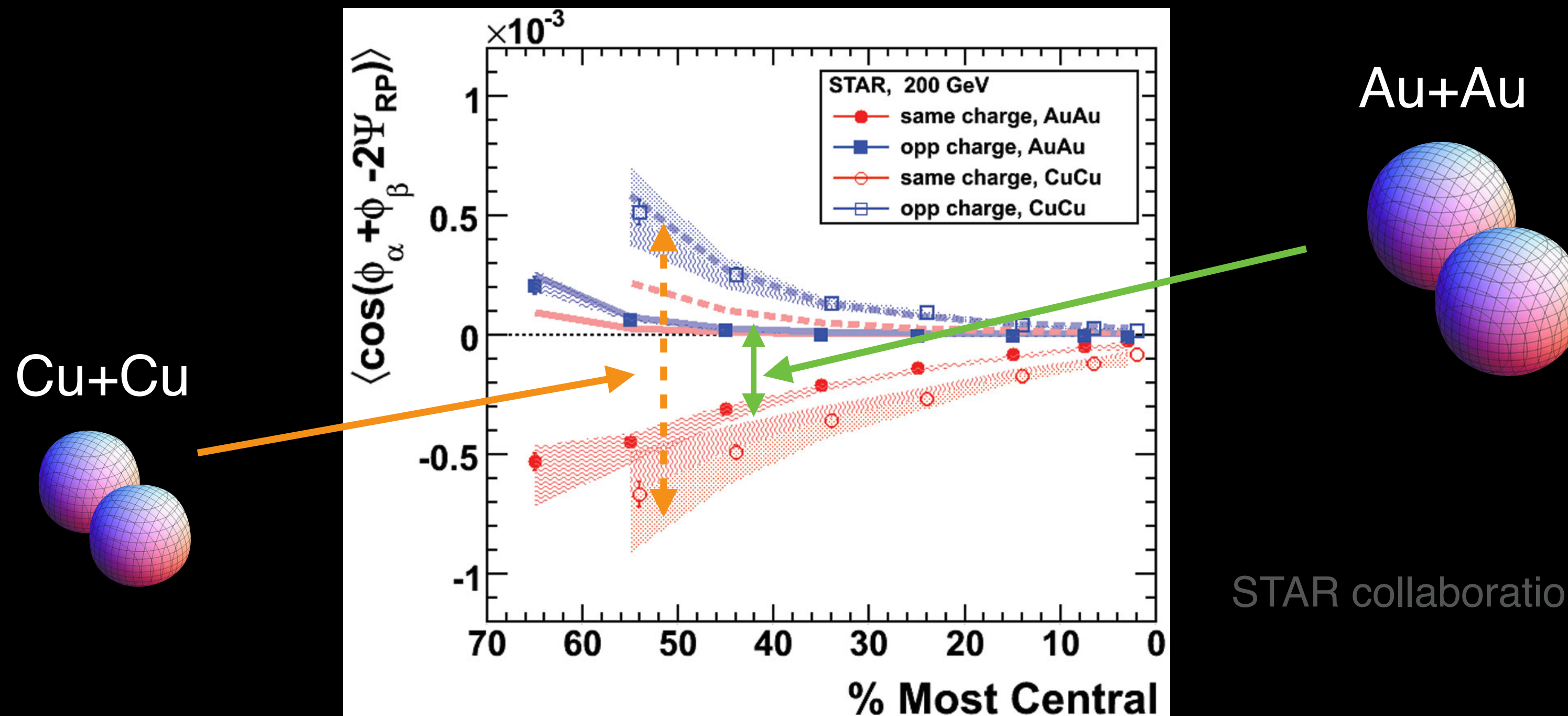


STAR collaboration, PRL 103, 251601 (2009)

Three possible sources of charge separation



# The first measurements at RHIC



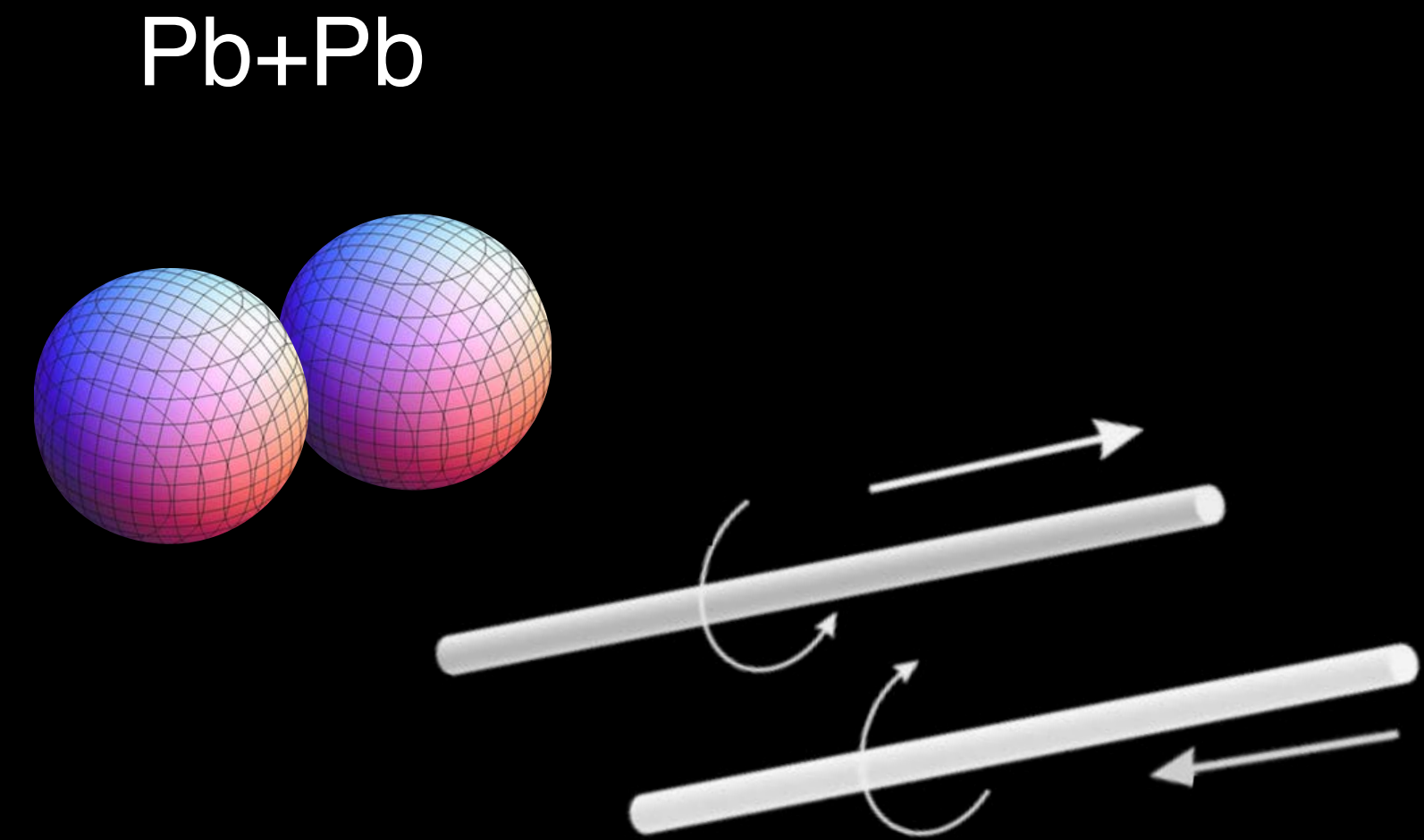
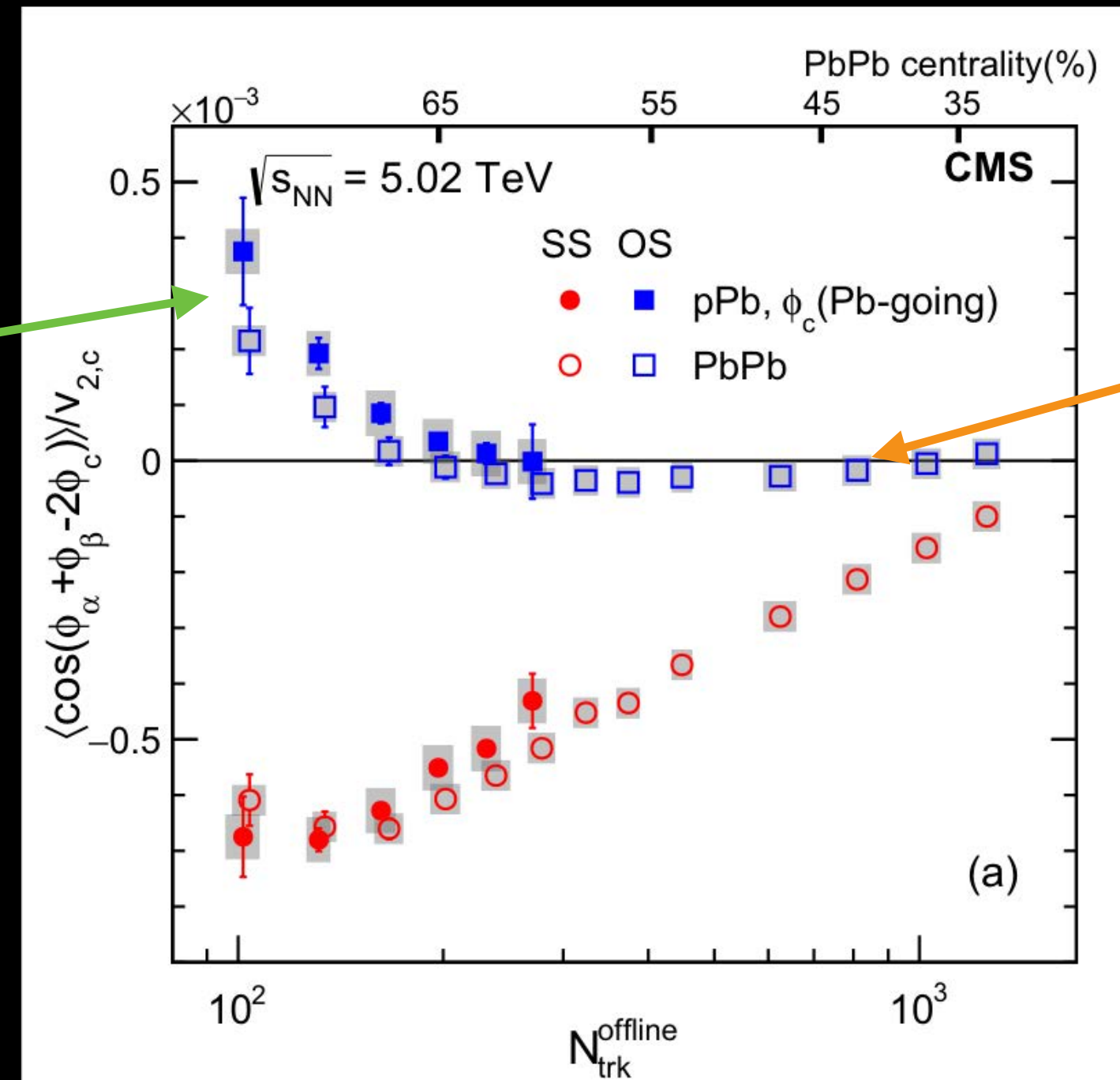
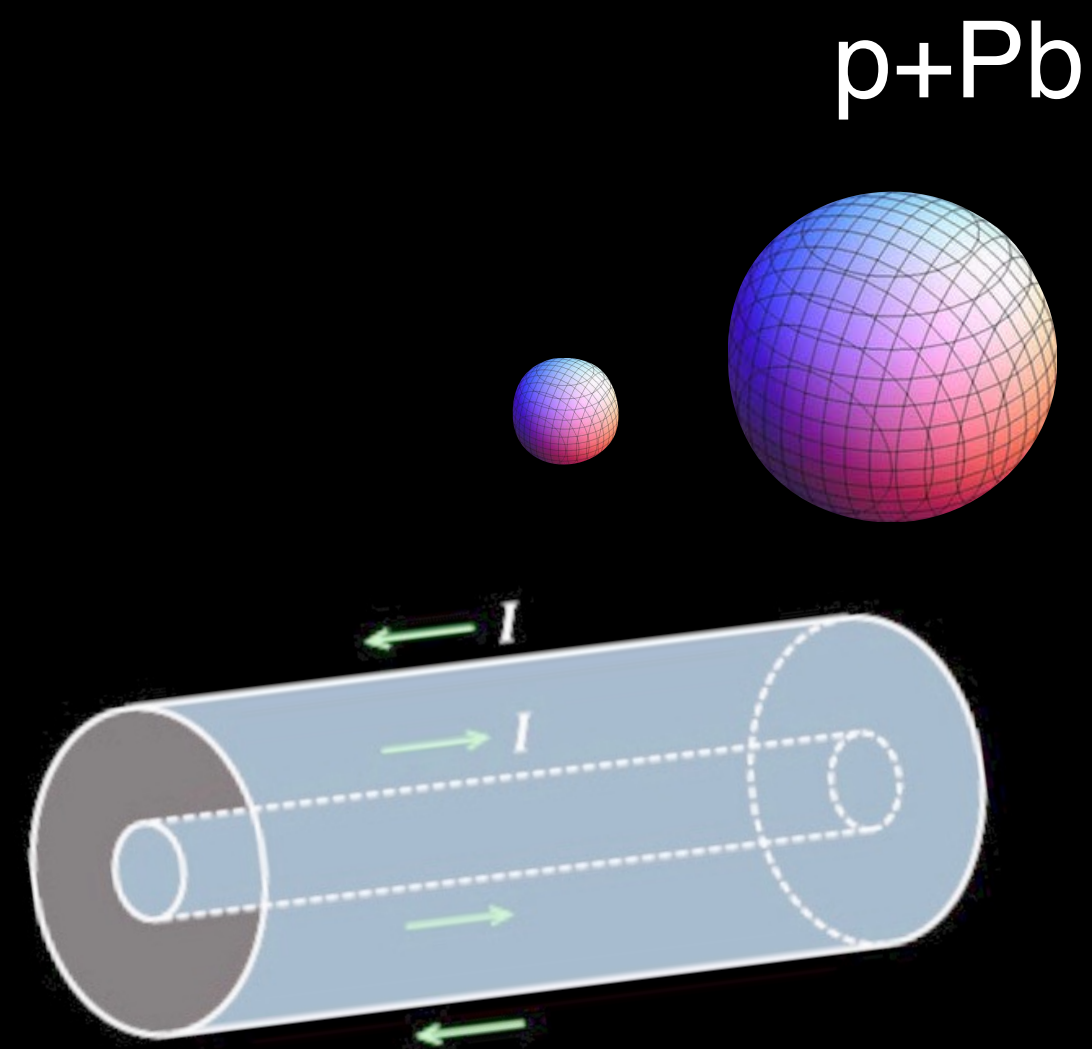
STAR collaboration, PRL 103, 251601 (2009)

Significant charge separation observed, consistent with CME+ Background

$$\Delta\gamma = \Delta\gamma^{CME} + k \times \frac{v_2}{N} + \Delta\gamma^{non-flow}$$

Measurement      Signal      Background-1      Background-2

# CME search in small systems



CMS collaboration, Phys.  
Rev Lett, 118 (2017) 122301

Flow and non-flow contributions  
are too different, less control and  
difficult to prove if

$$\Delta\gamma^{CME} = 0$$

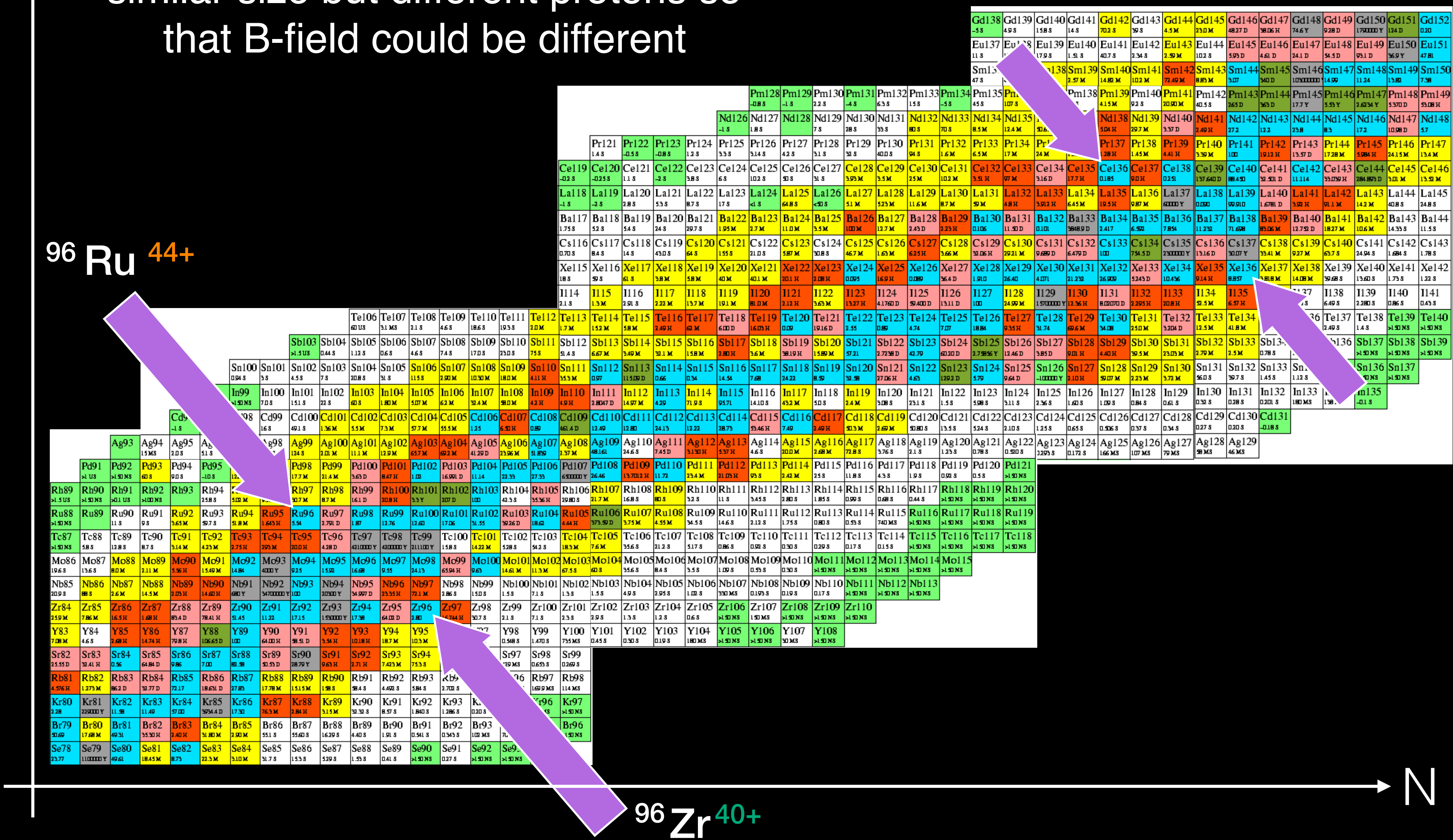
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Delta\gamma^{A+A} = \Delta\gamma^{CME} + k \times \frac{v_2}{N} + \Delta\gamma^{non-flow} \\ \Delta\gamma^{p+A} = \cancel{\Delta\gamma^{CME}} + k \times \frac{v_2}{N} + \Delta\gamma^{non-flow} \end{array} \right.$$

Two systems of very different sizes → limited control over background  
This naturally leads to the idea of **using two systems of similar sizes**

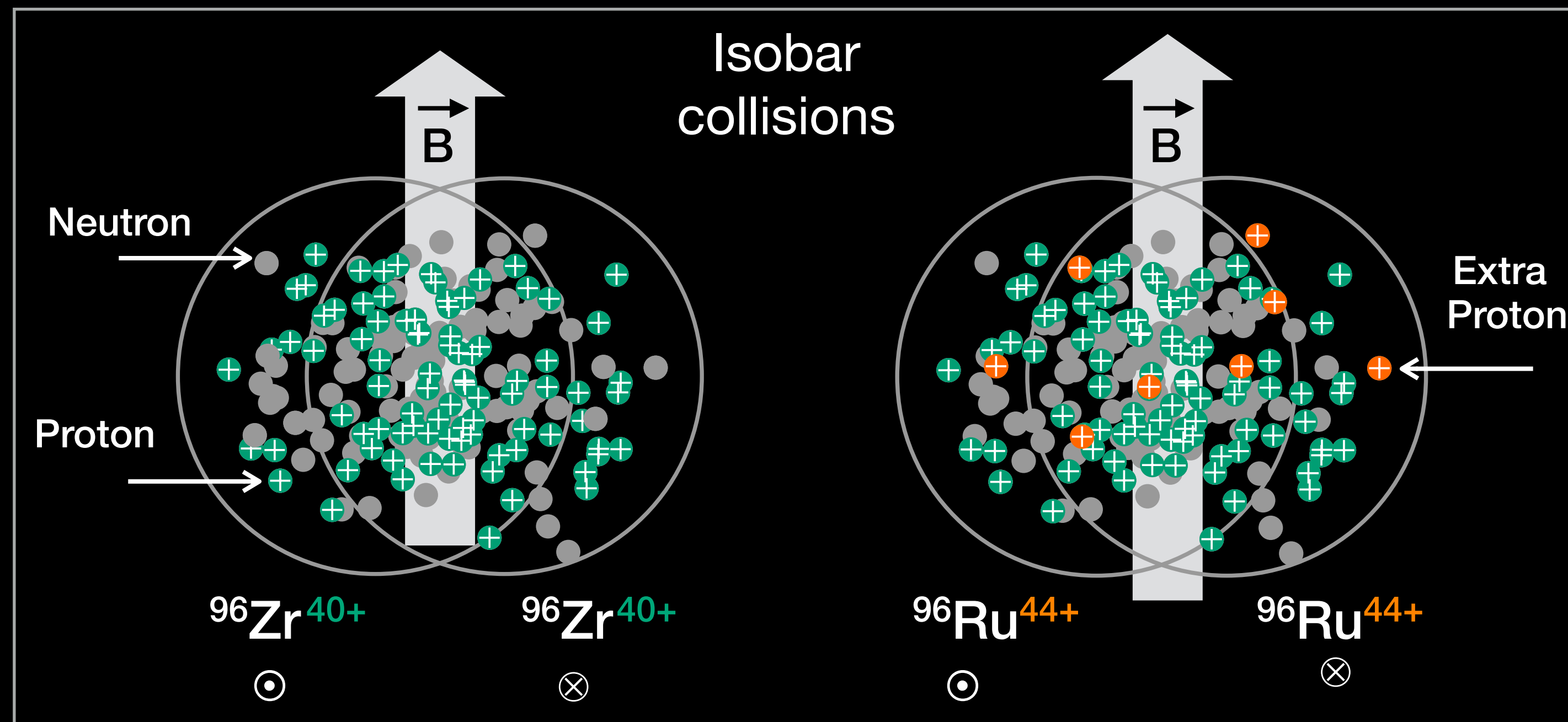
# Isobar in the chart of nuclides

Z Looking for elements which have similar size but different protons so that B-field could be different

© <http://www.nuclear.csdb.cn/nuclear/chart9.asp>



# Isobar collisions



Voloshin, Phys.Rev.Lett. 105 (2010) 172301

B-field square is 10-18%  
larger in Ru+Ru

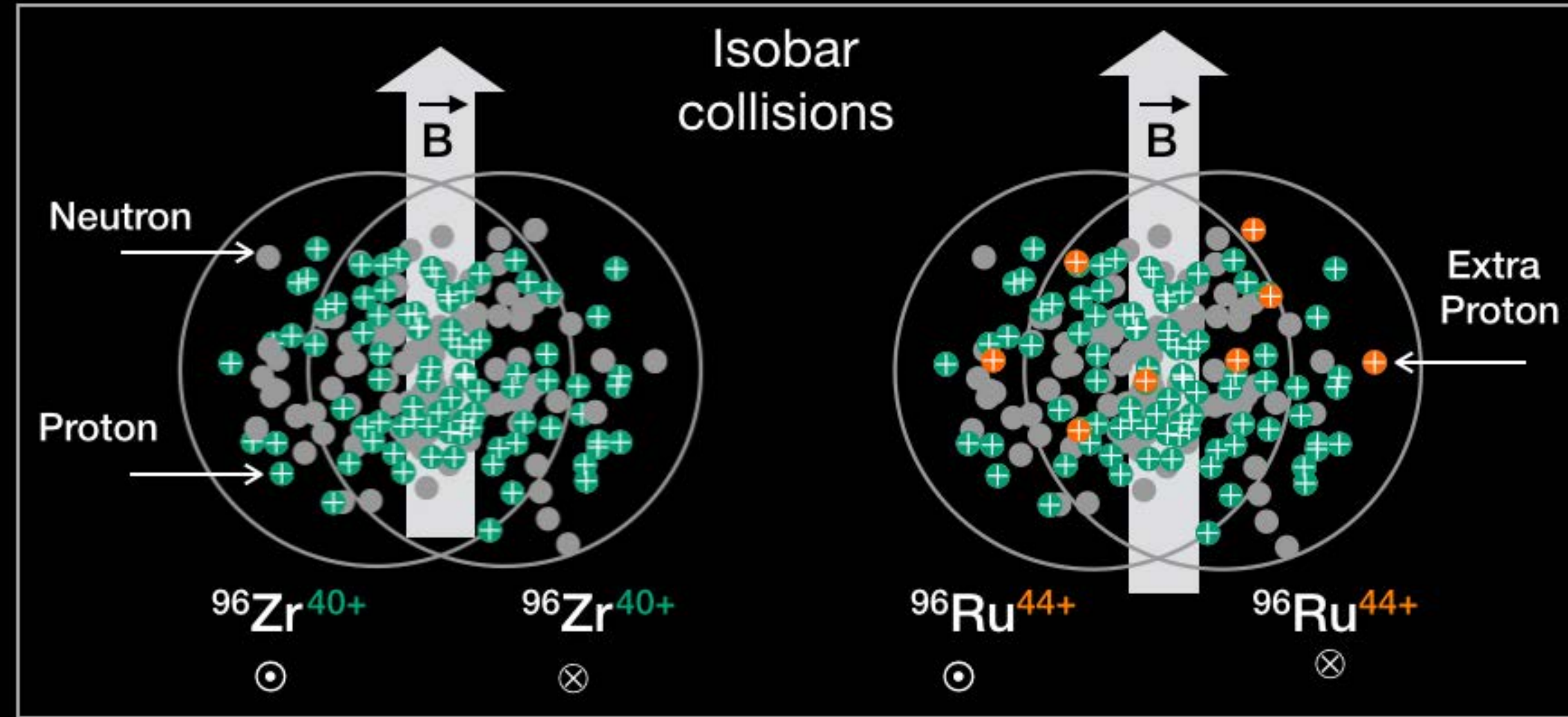
$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \Delta\gamma^{\text{Ru+Ru}} & = & \Delta\gamma^{\text{CME}} & + & k \times \frac{v_2}{N} & + & \Delta\gamma^{\text{non-flow}} \\ ?? & & \updownarrow & & \approx & & \parallel \\ \Delta\gamma^{\text{Zr+Zr}} & = & \Delta\gamma^{\text{CME}} & + & k \times \frac{v_2}{N} & + & \Delta\gamma^{\text{non-flow}} \end{array}$$

Isobar collisions provide the best  
possible control of signal and  
background compared to all  
previous experiments

$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{Ru+Ru}}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{Zr+Zr}}} \approx 1 + \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{Unknown}}}{f_{\text{CME}}^{\text{Zr+Zr}}} \left[ \underbrace{(B_{\text{Ru+Ru}}/B_{\text{Zr+Zr}})^2 - 1}_{0.18} \right]$$

## Modality of the Isobar Run

# Isobar collisions



Voloshin, Phys.Rev.Lett. 105 (2010) 172301

B-field square is 10-18%  
larger in Ru+Ru

[https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/system/files/STAR\\_BUR\\_Run1718\\_v22\\_0.pdf](https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/system/files/STAR_BUR_Run1718_v22_0.pdf)

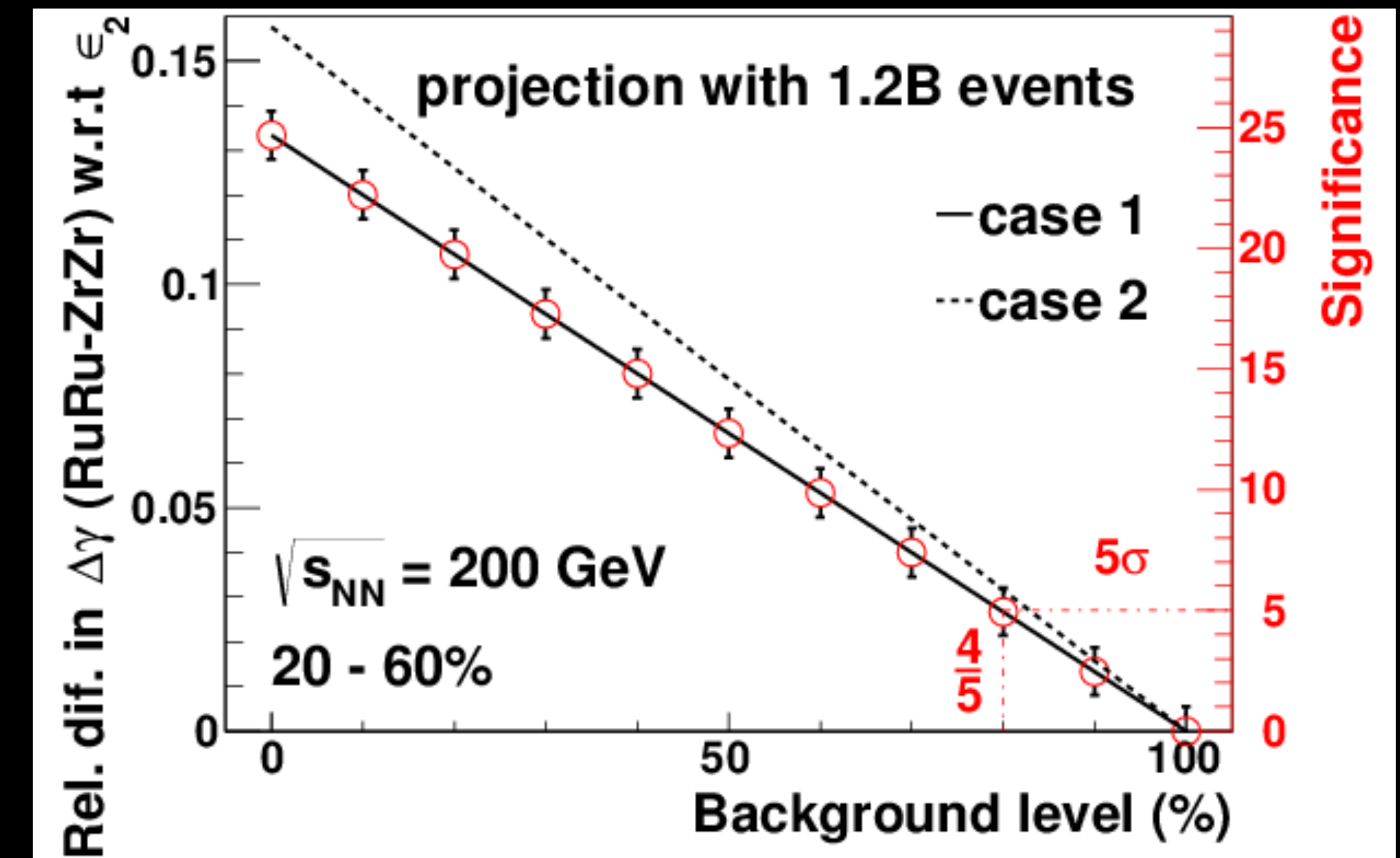
$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{Ru+Ru}}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{Zr+Zr}}} \approx 1 + f_{\text{CME}}^{\text{Zr+Zr}} \left[ \underbrace{(B_{\text{Ru+Ru}}/B_{\text{Zr+Zr}})^2 - 1}_{0.18} \right]$$

Unknown

$> 1$  (for CME)

1.2 B collision events for each species can give  $5\sigma$  significance for 20% signal level ( $f_{\text{CME}} \sim 0.2$ )

(A precision of 0.5% is needed !!)



$$(1 - f_{\text{CME}}) \times 100\%$$

# Details Of The Data Taking Of The Isobar Run

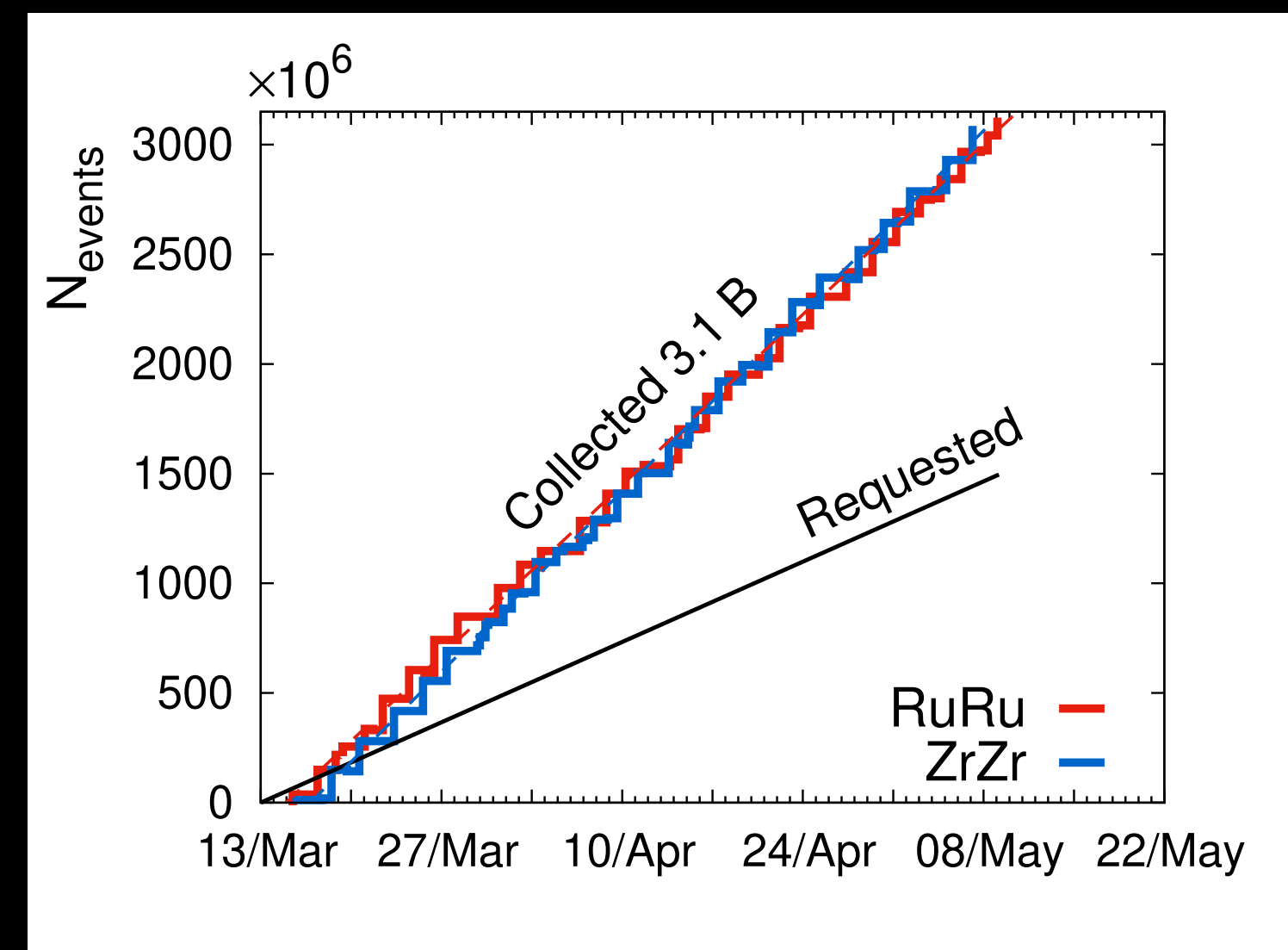
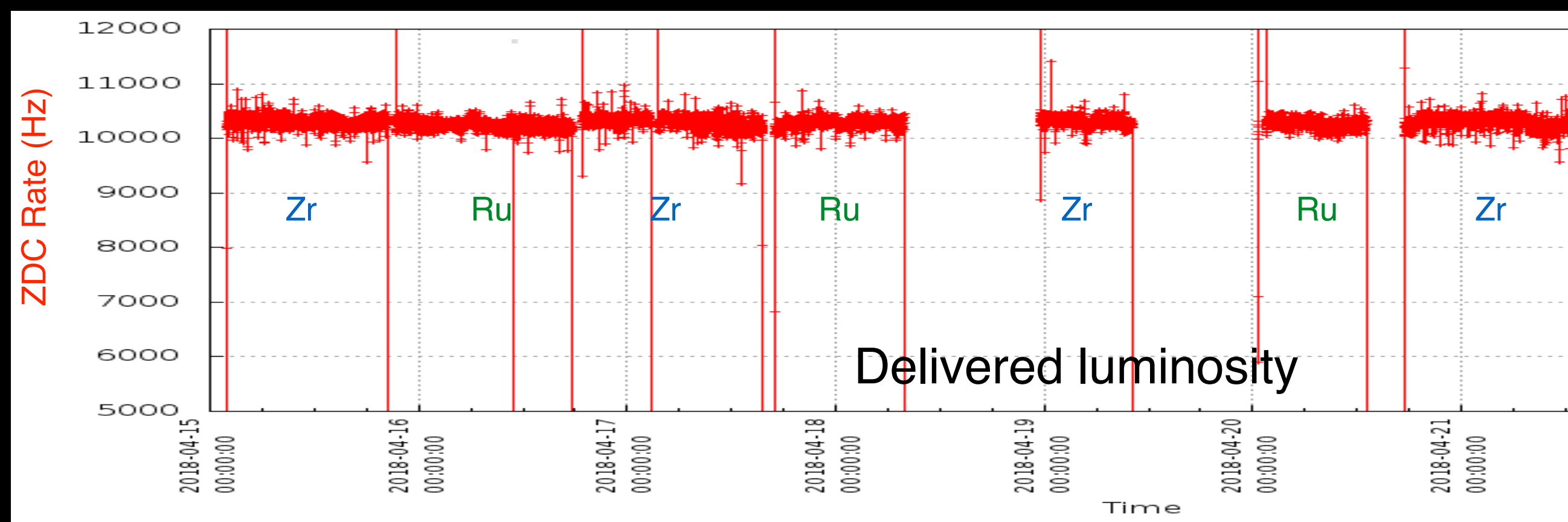
G. Marr et al., in 10th International Particle Accelerator Conference (2019) pp. 28–32.

PHENIX

Goal: minimize the systematics in observable ratios, similar run conditions for both species



Two important steps:  
1) Fill-by-fill switching  
2) Level luminosity

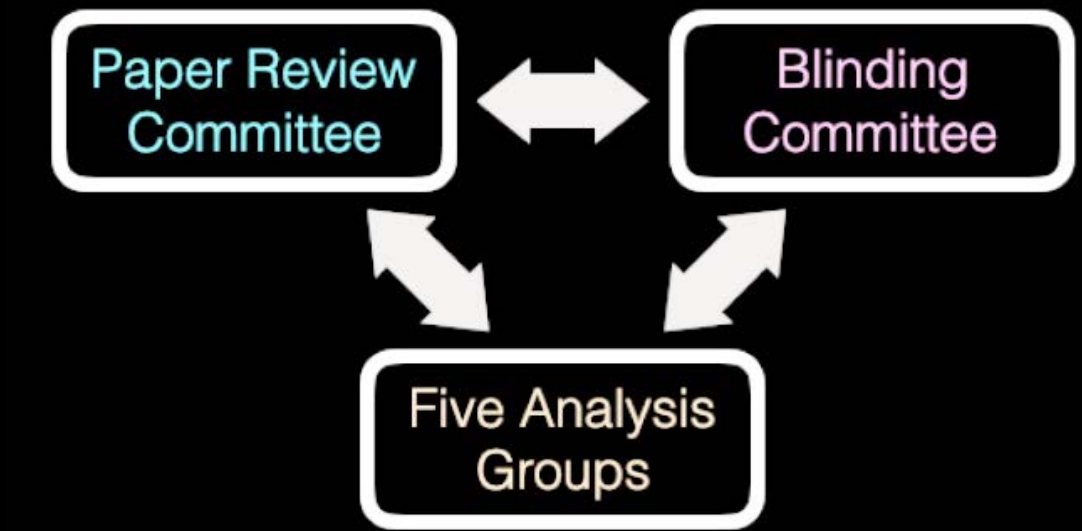
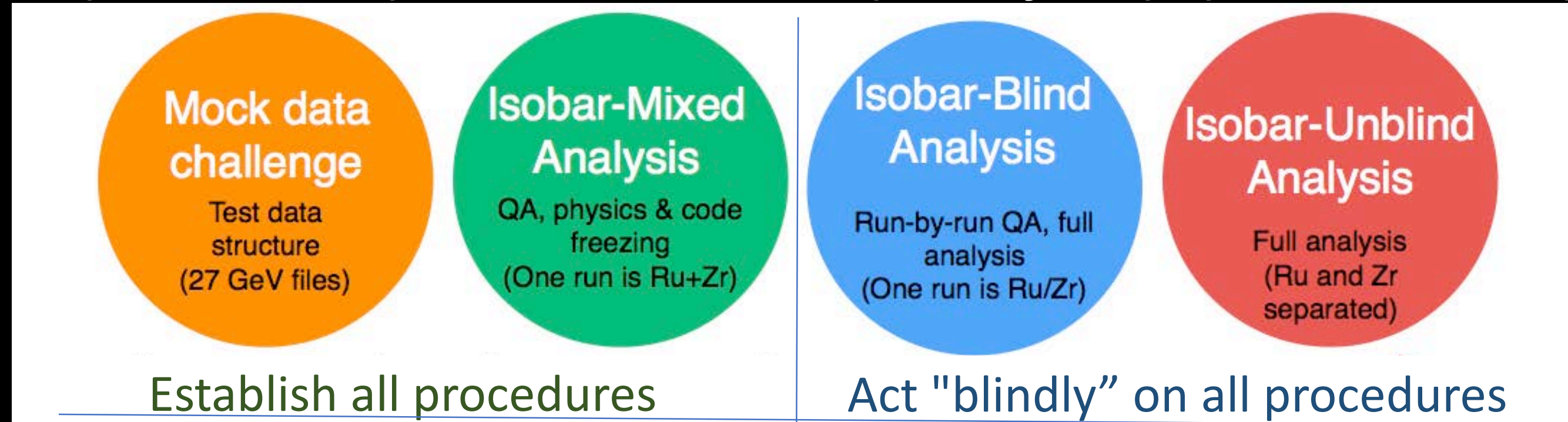


## Blind analysis of the isobar data



# Steps of Isobar blind analysis

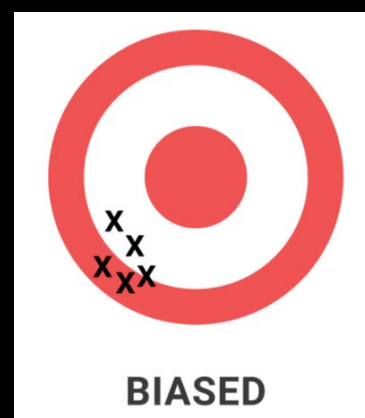
Step-I (~2 months)      Step-II (~1 year)      Step-III (~1/2 year)      Step-IV (~2-3 months)



Blind analysis method:  
STAR Collaboration  
Nucl.Sci.Tech. 32 (2021) 5, 48  
arXiv:1911.00596 [nucl-ex]

- NPP PAC recommended a blind analysis of isobar data Blinding
- No access to species-specific information before last step
- Everything documented (not written → not allowed)
- Case for CME & interpretation must be pre-defined

Quality assurance is done by pattern recognition algorithms to remove bias & noise

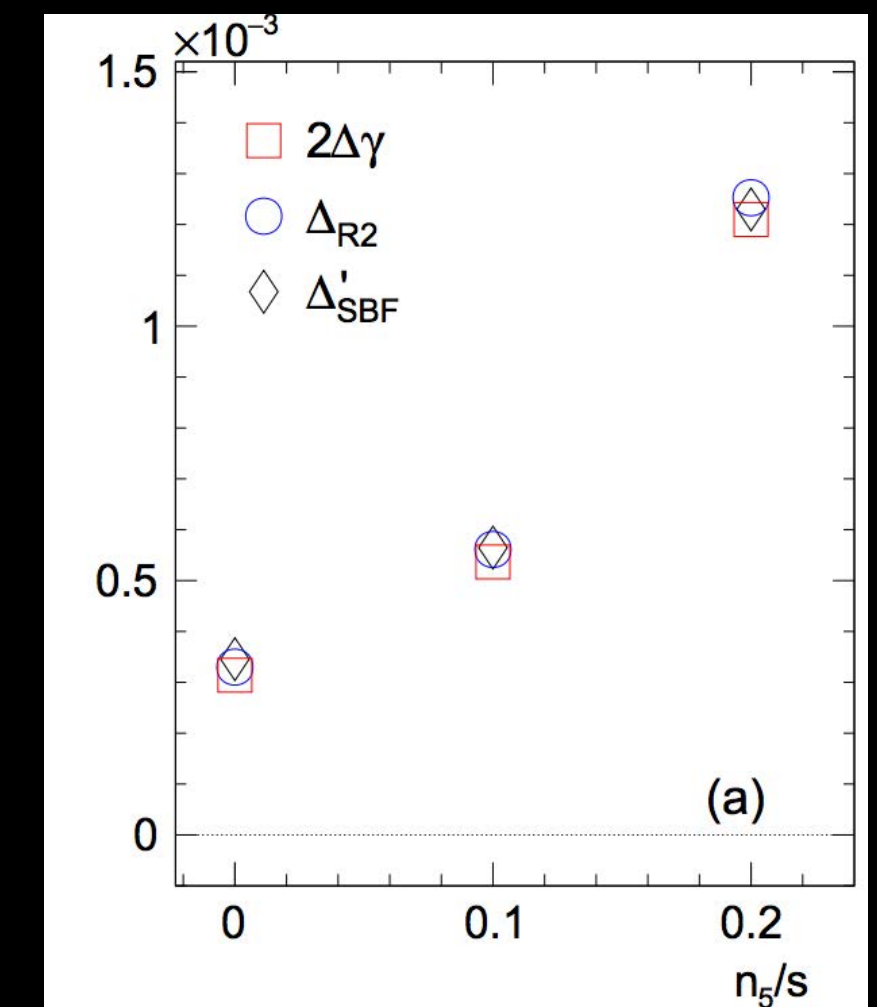


~~Huristics~~



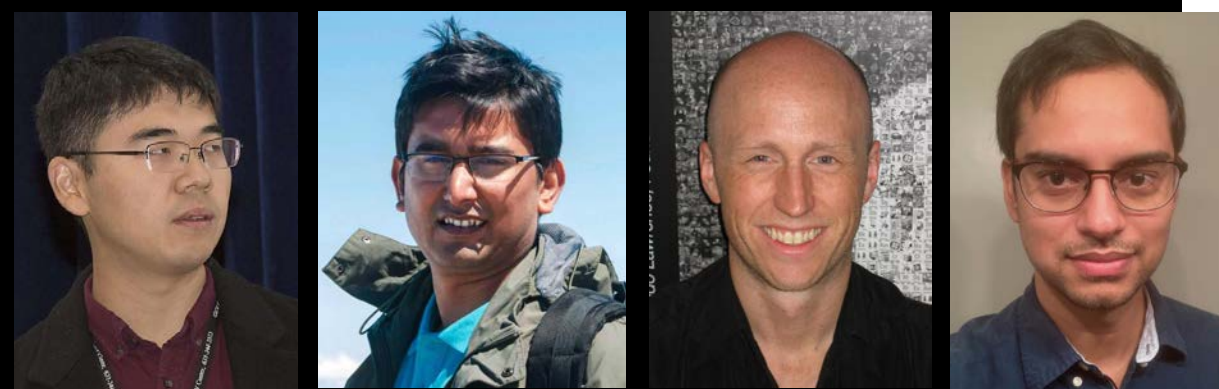
Algorithms

Sensitivity of CME observables verified using framework of BEST collaboration  
Choudhury et. al. arXiv:2105.06044

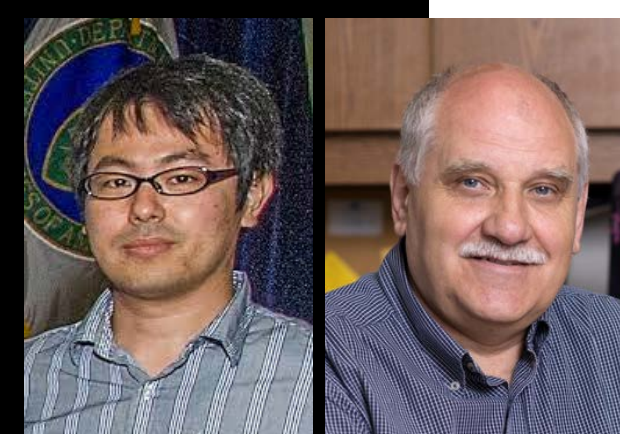


# Five independent groups did isobar blind analysis

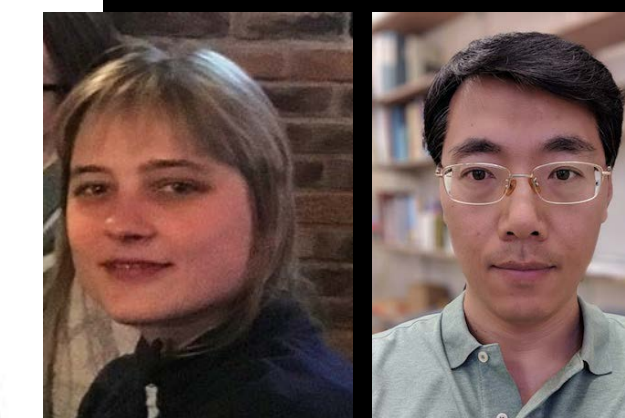
Purdue-Huzhou (group-3)  
Yicheng Feng, Haojie Xu, Jie Zhao, Fuqiang Wang



BNL-Fudan (group-2)  
Yu Hu, Subikash Choudhury, Paul  
Sorensen, Prithwish Tribedy



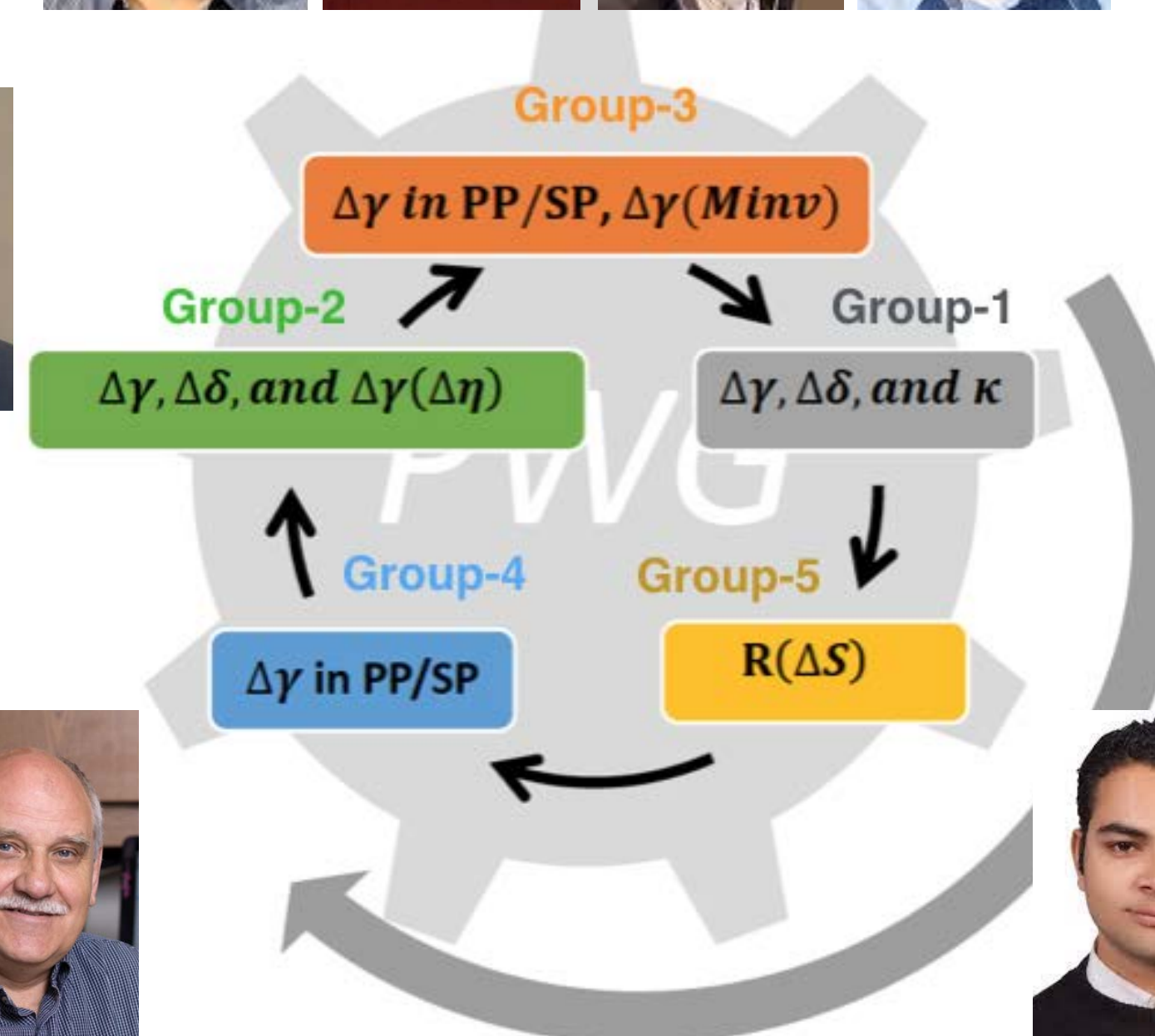
WSU-Tsukuba (group-4)  
Takafumi Niida, Sergei Voloshin



UCLA (group-1)  
Maria Sergeeva, Gang Wang

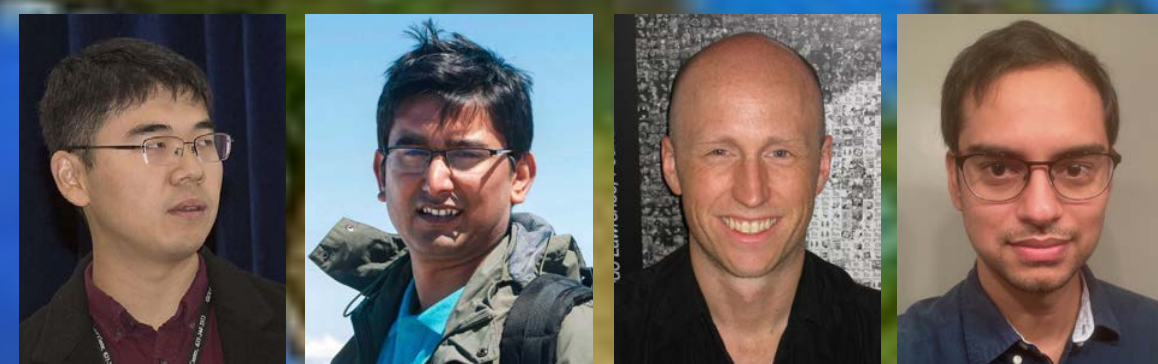


SBU-UIC (group-5)  
Niseem Magdy, Roy Lacey



Five independent groups will perform analysis, all codes must be frozen  
and run by another person, results have to directly sent for publication

# How the isobar blind analysis was done



Group-2 (BNL-Fudan)



Independent STAR  
collaborator 1



(Moscow)

Independent STAR  
collaborator 2



(Tsukuba)

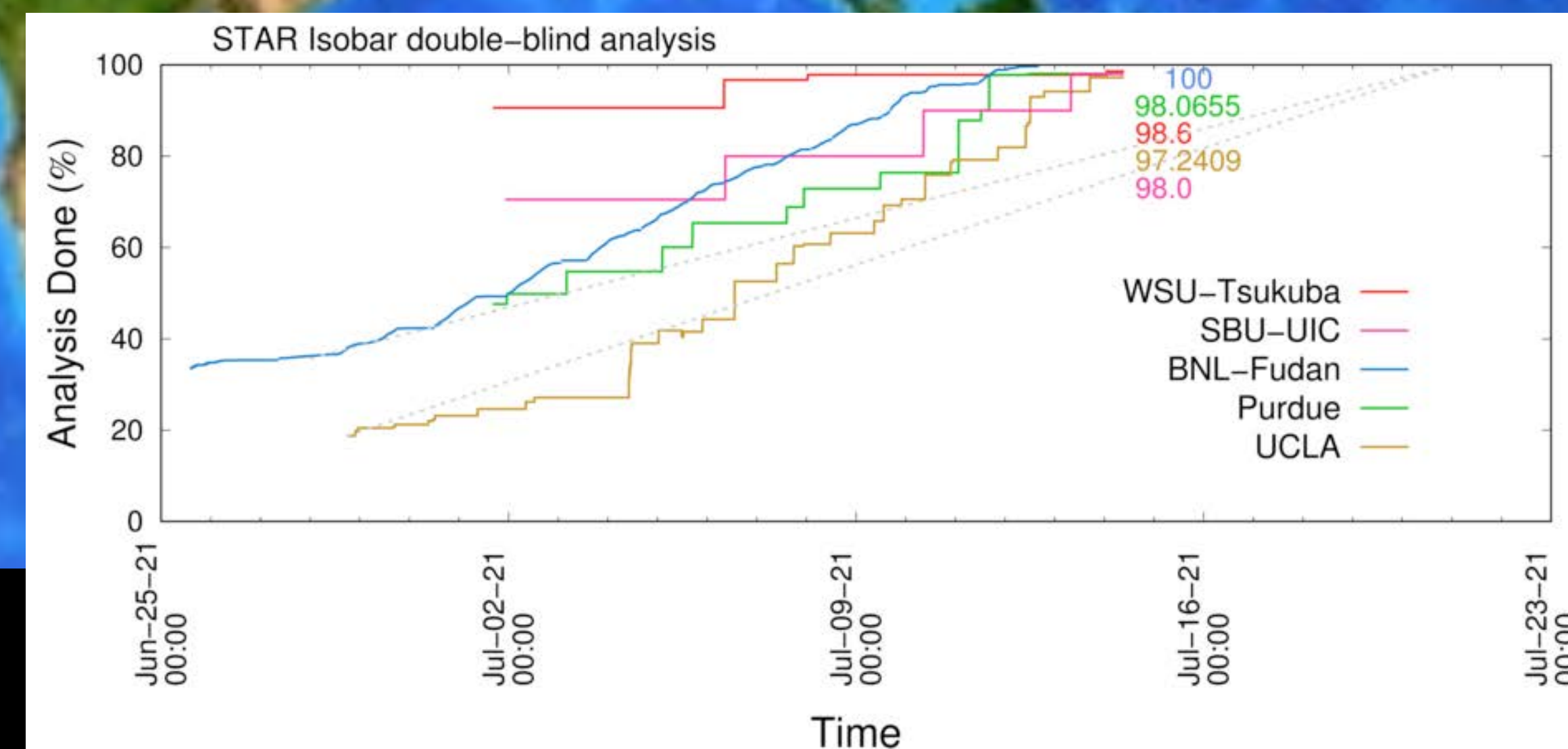
(Ru+Ru)

(Zr+Zr)

Different people run frozen codes

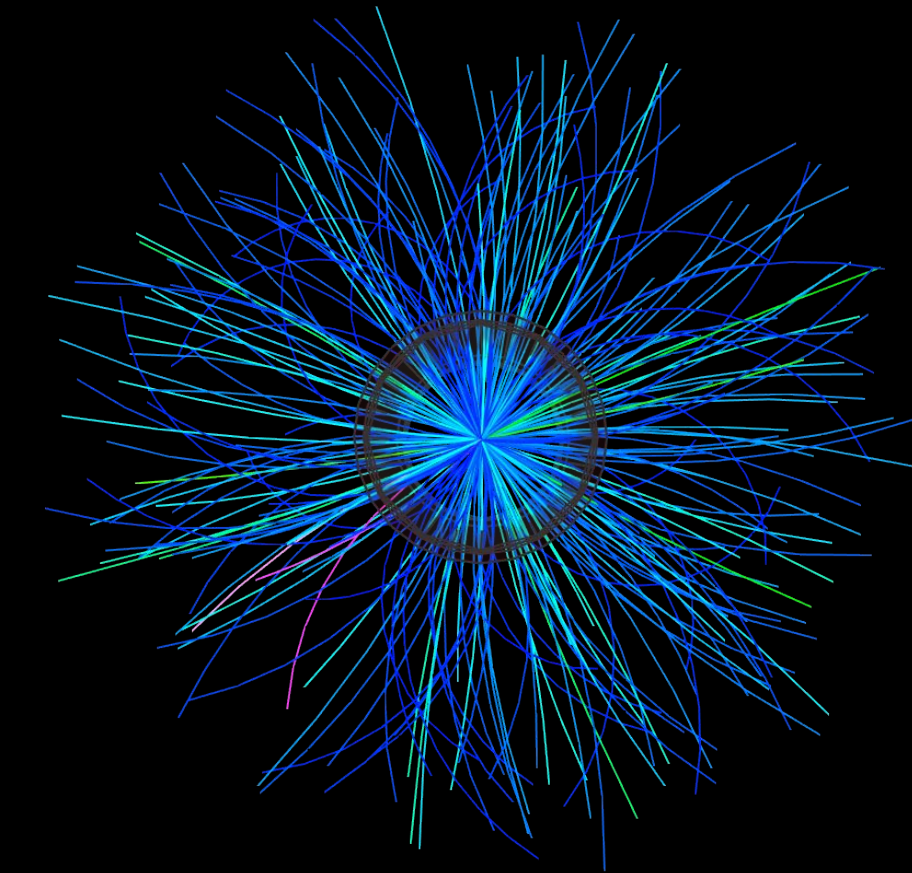
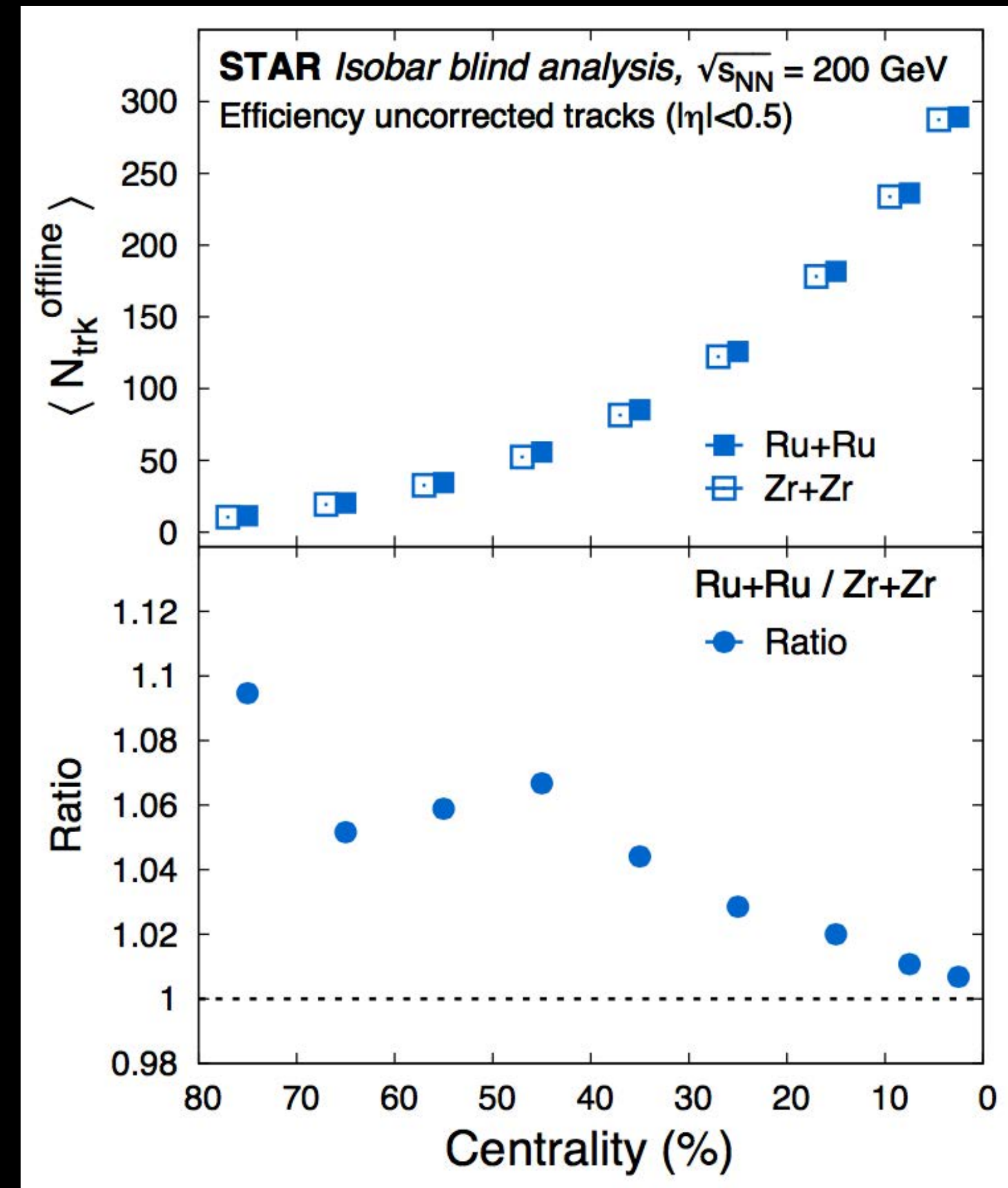
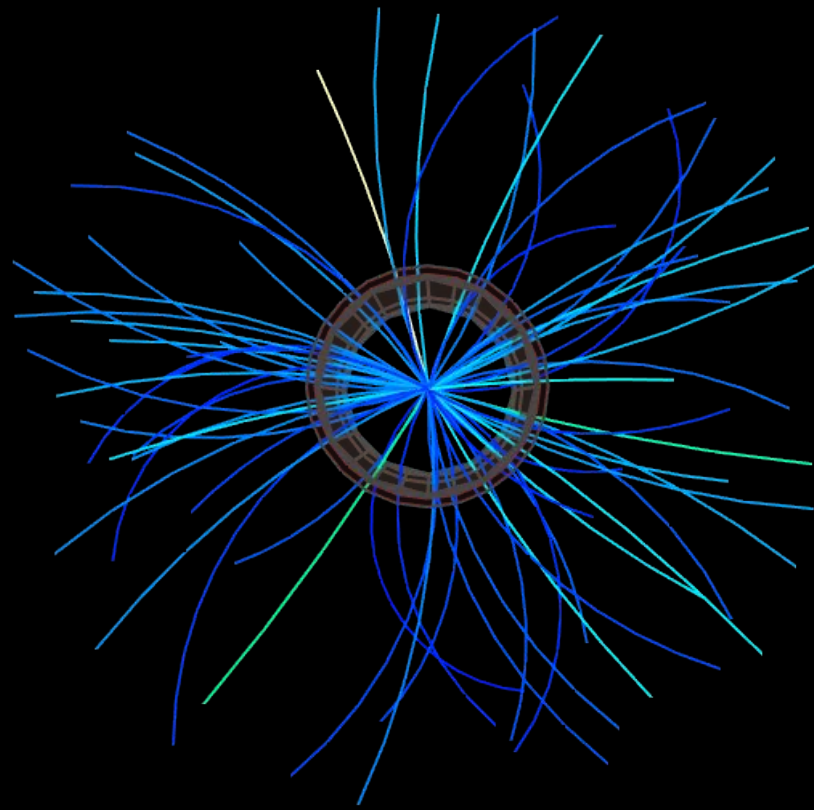
→ Analyzers open box → Directly publish the result

(Took all nodes of RHIC comp. facility for a month)



## Results from Isobar blind analysis

# Multiplicity difference between the isobars

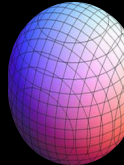
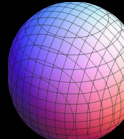


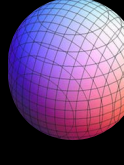
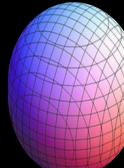
Mean efficiency uncorrected multiplicity density is larger in Ru than in Zr in a matching centrality, this can affect signal and background difference between isobars

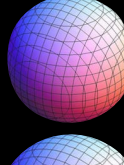

Quite unexpected result!!

# What is the shape of the isobar nuclei?

Blind analysis: we decided to compare observables at same centralities between isobars

Nucleus	Case-1 [83]			
	$R$ (fm)	$a$ (fm)	$\beta_2$	
$^{96}_{44}\text{Ru}$	5.085	0.46	0.158	
$^{96}_{40}\text{Zr}$	5.02	0.46	0.08	

Nucleus	Case-2 [83]			
	$R$ (fm)	$a$ (fm)	$\beta_2$	
$^{96}_{44}\text{Ru}$	5.085	0.46	0.053	
$^{96}_{40}\text{Zr}$	5.02	0.46	0.217	

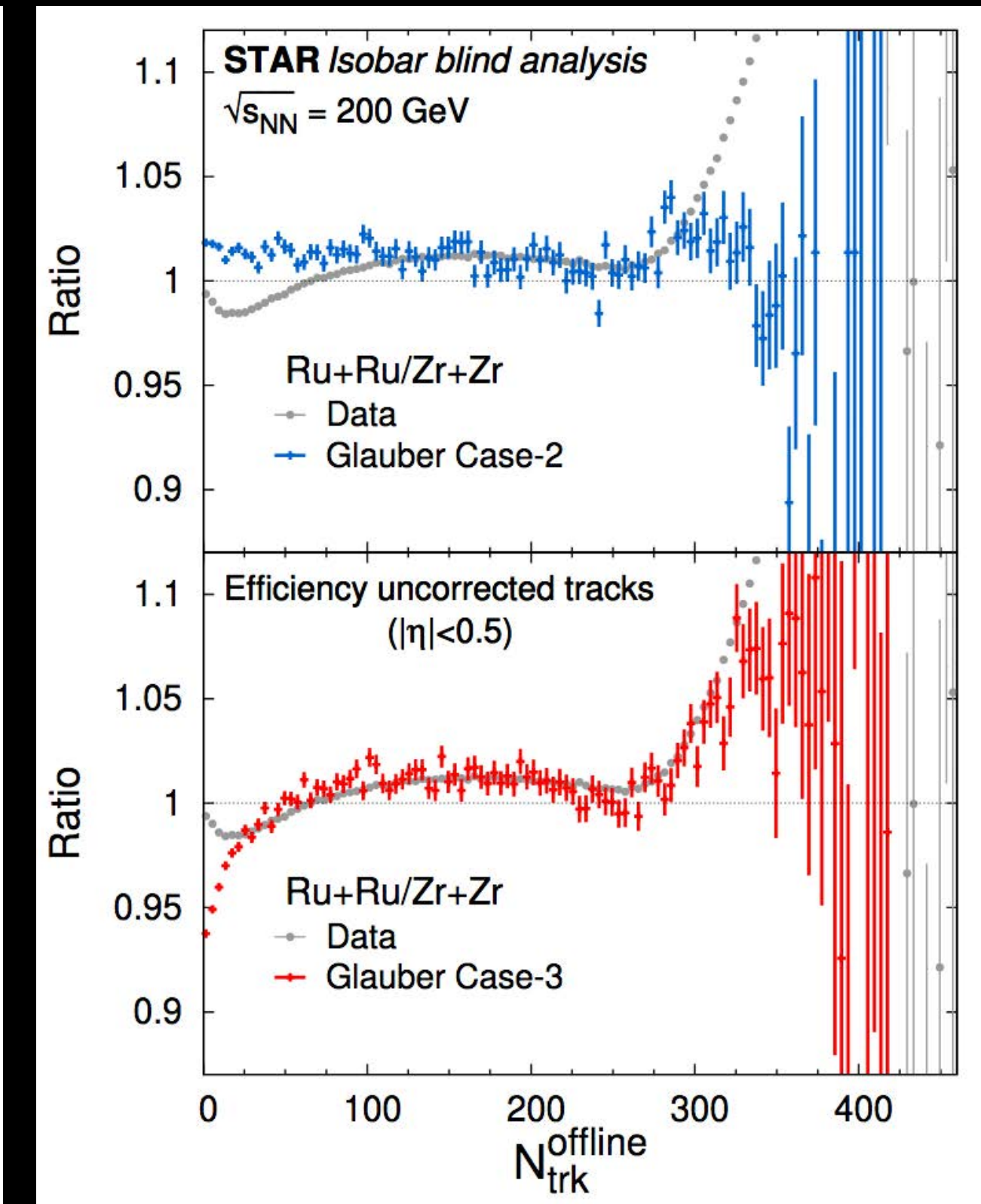
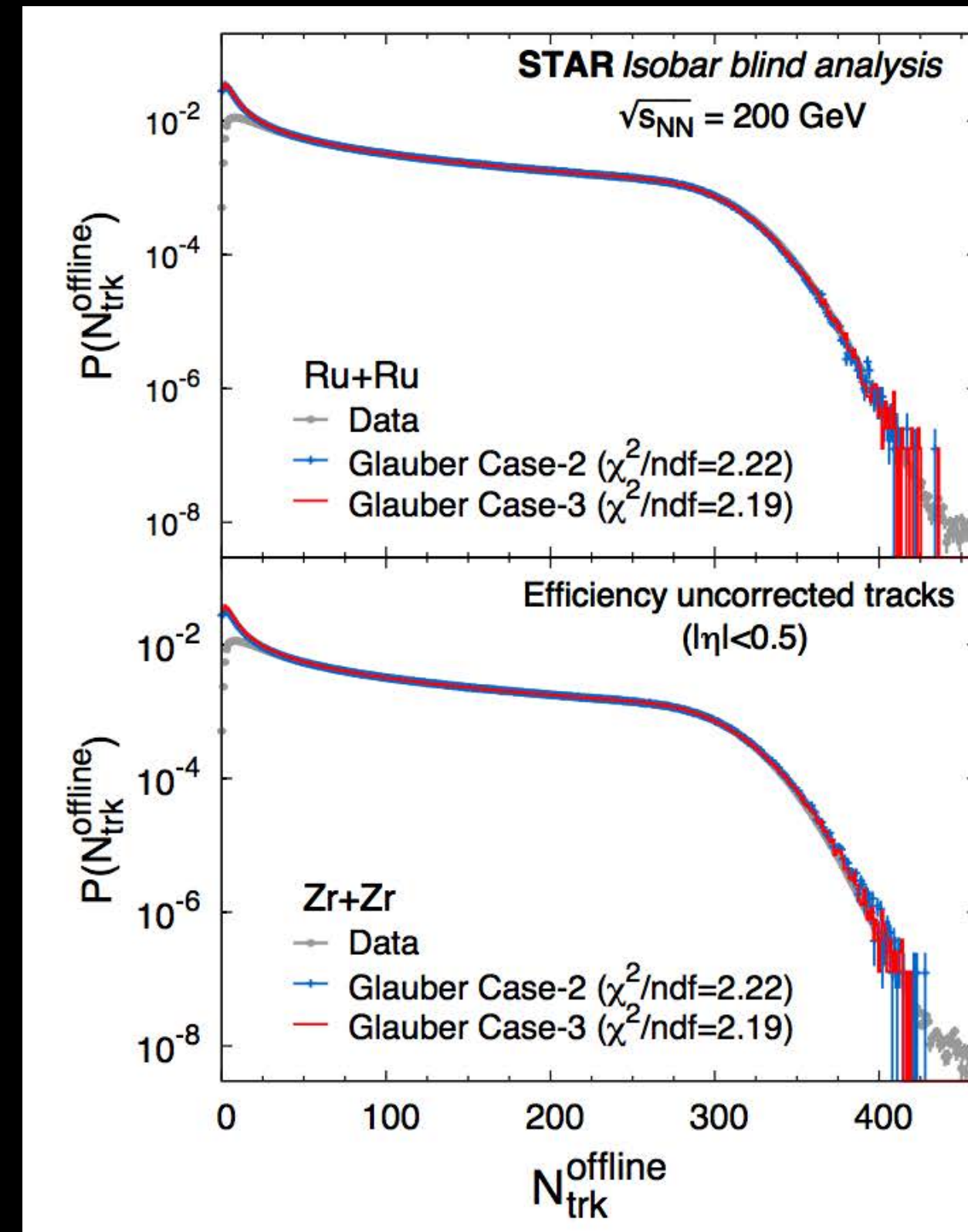
Nucleus	Case-3 [113]			
	$R$ (fm)	$a$ (fm)	$\beta_2$	
$^{96}_{44}\text{Ru}$	5.067	0.500	0	
$^{96}_{40}\text{Zr}$	4.965	0.556	0	

See references in:

Deng et. al., Phys. Rev. C 94, 041901 (2016), arXiv:1607.04697 [nucl-th].

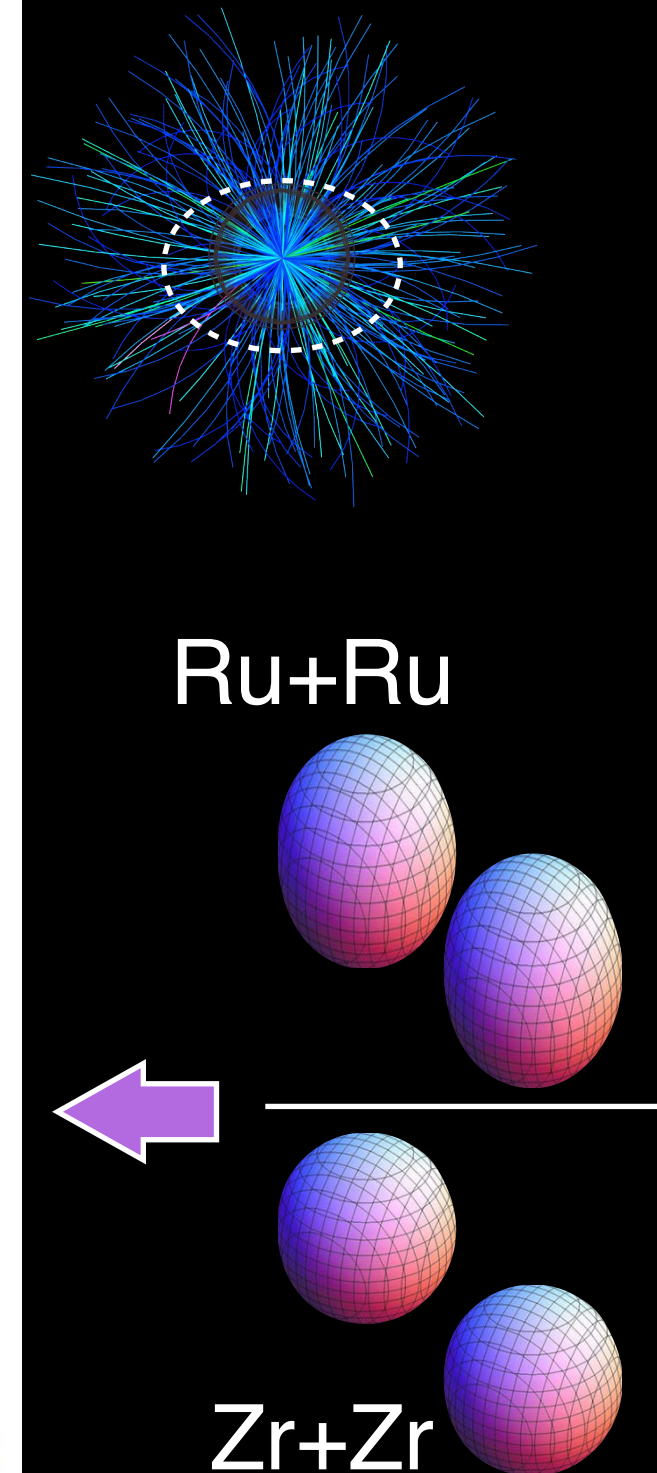
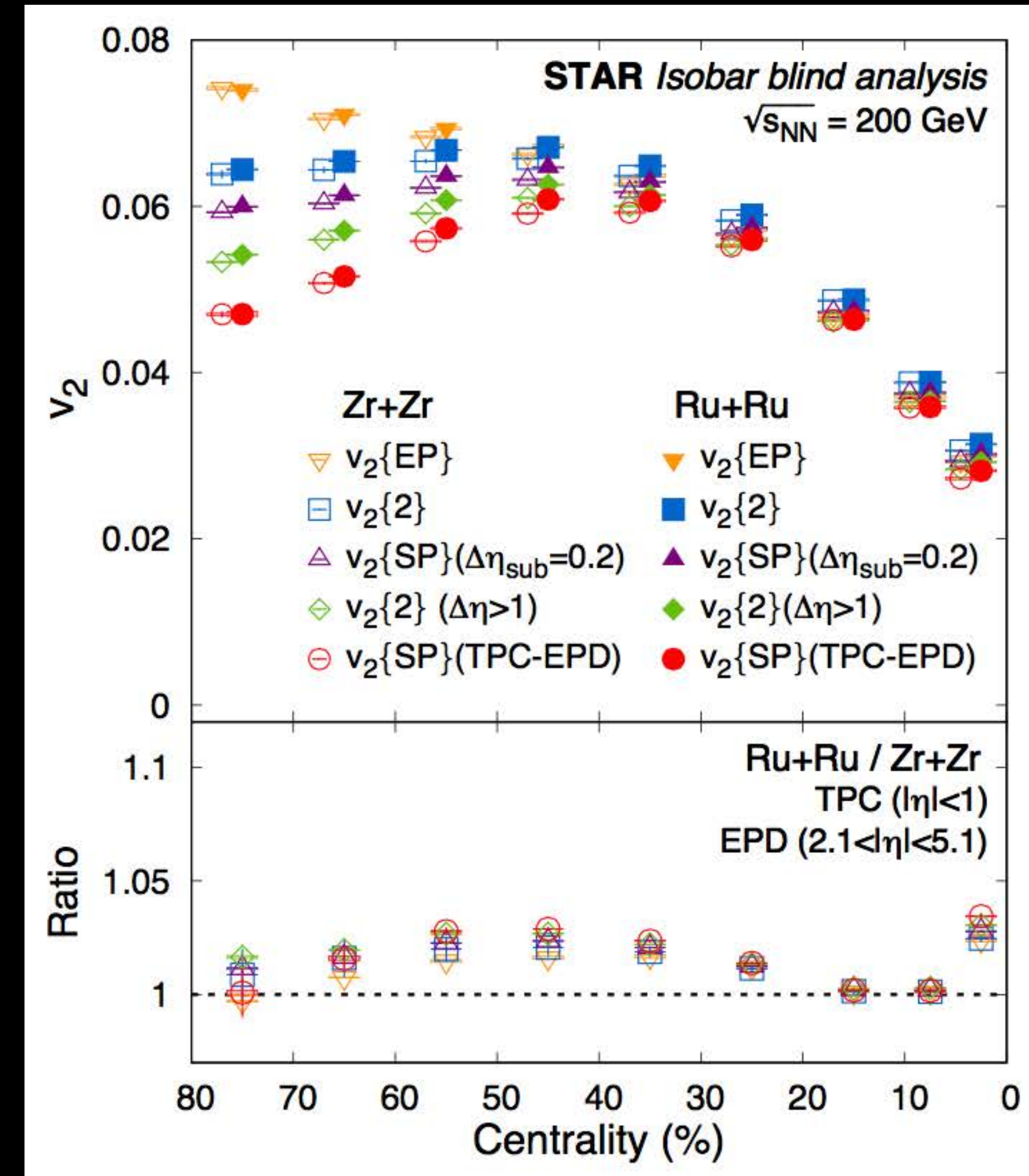
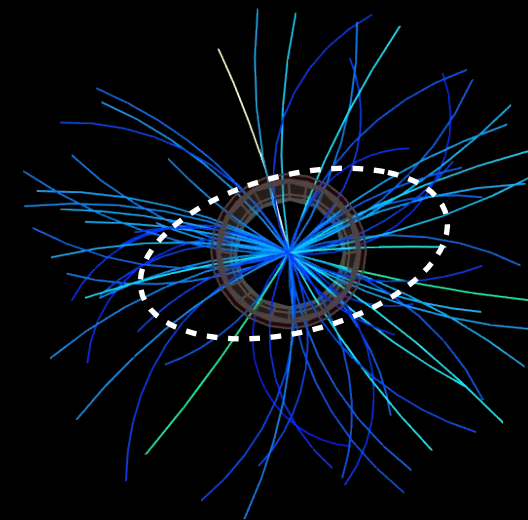
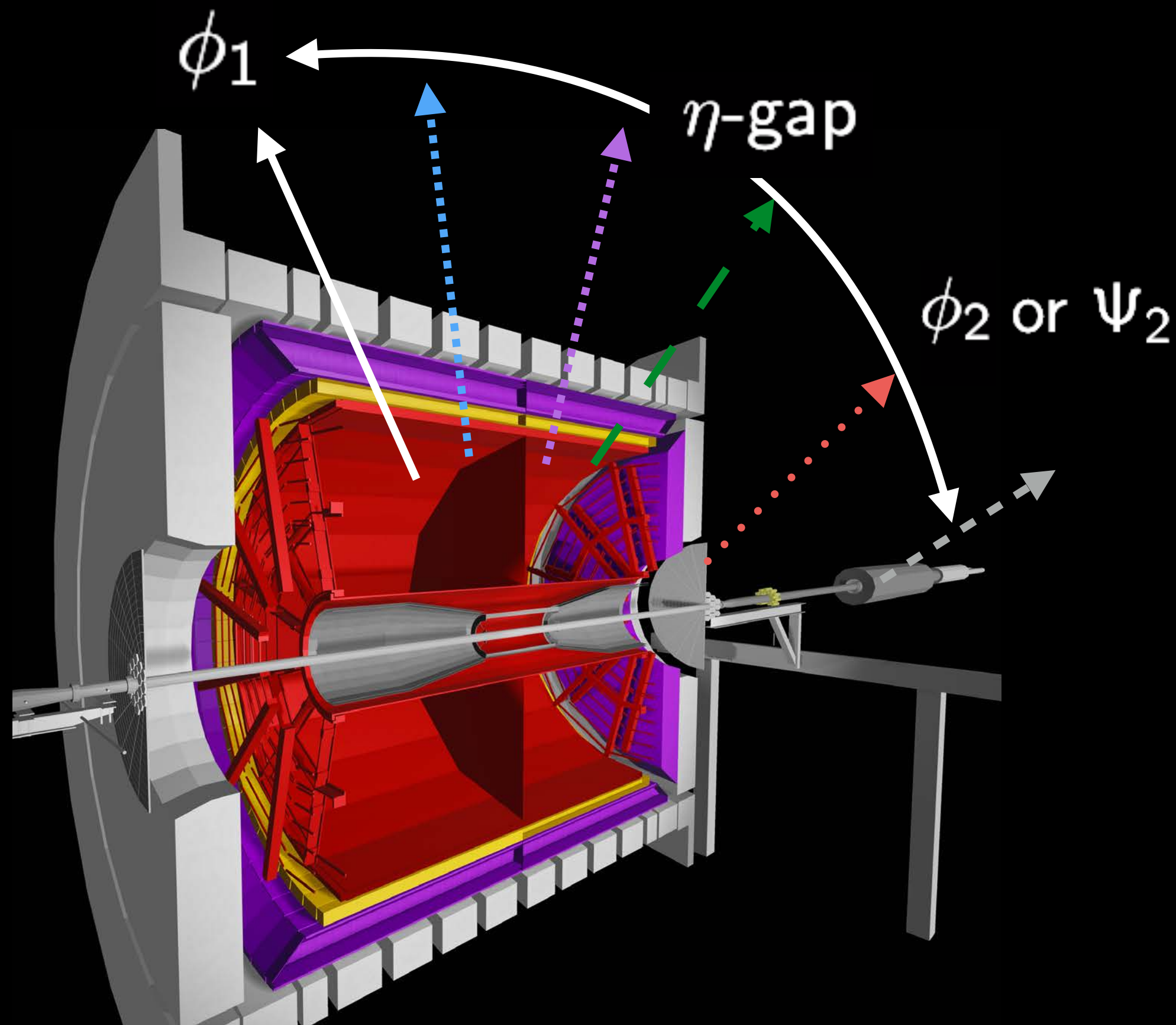
Xu et. al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 121, 022301 (2018), arXiv:1710.03086 [nucl-th].

MC-Glauber with two-component model used to describe uncorrected multiplicity distribution. WS parameters with no deformation (thinner neutron skin in Zr) provides the best description of the multiplicity distributions



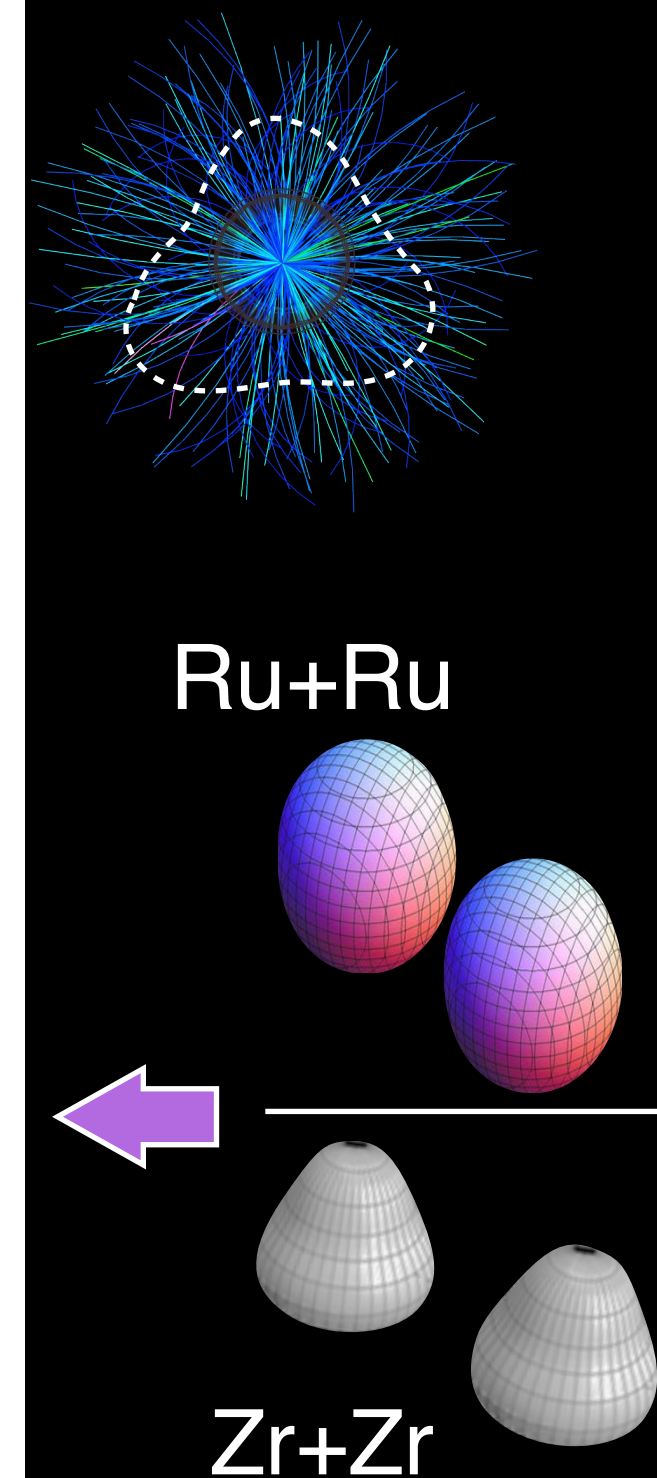
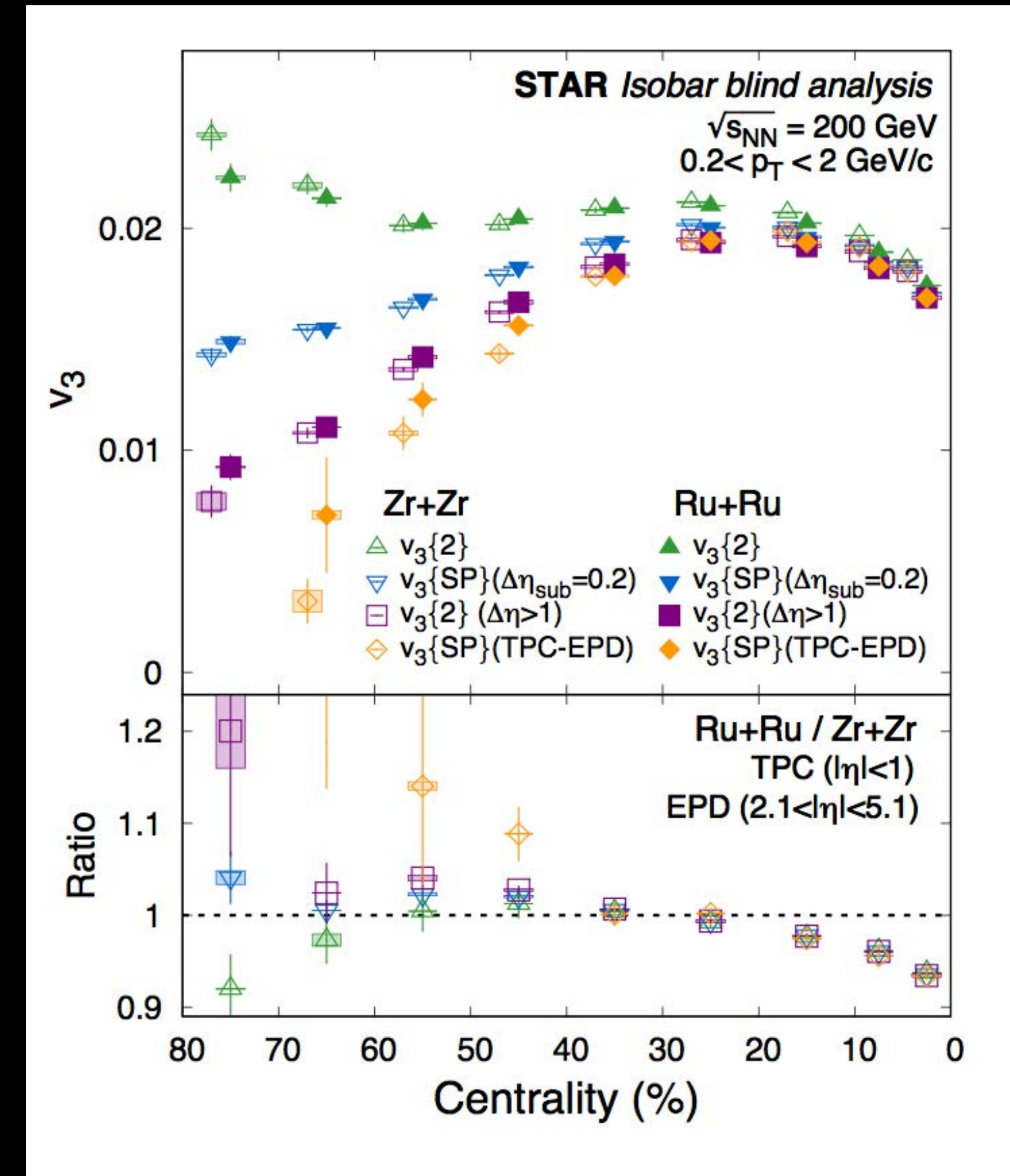
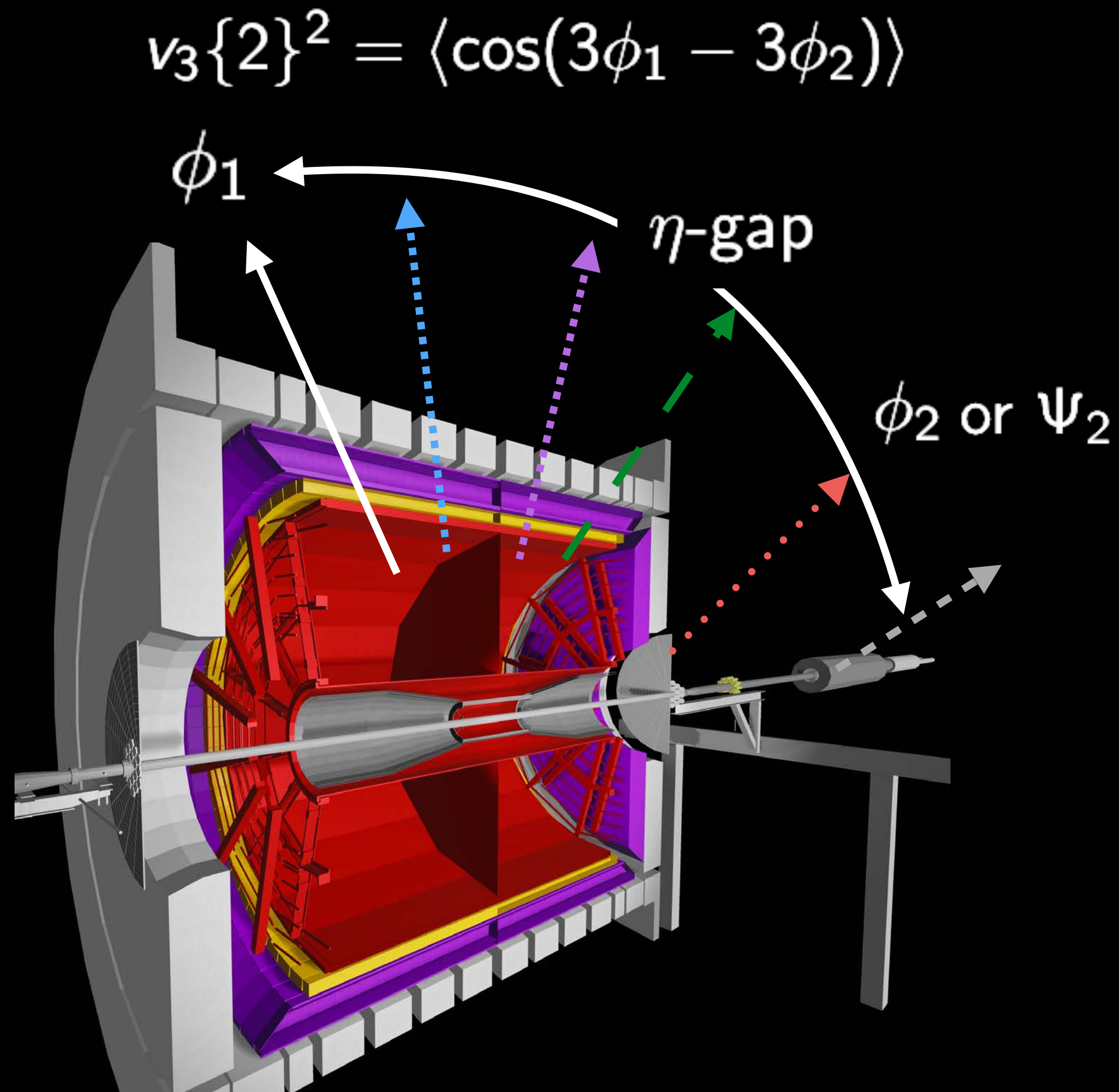
# Elliptic anisotropy

$$v_2\{EP\} = \langle \cos(2\phi_1 - 2\Psi_2) \rangle$$



$v_2$  studied  $\eta$ -gap, ratio deviates from unity indicating difference in the shape, nuclear structure between two isobars (larger quadruple deformation in Ru+Ru)

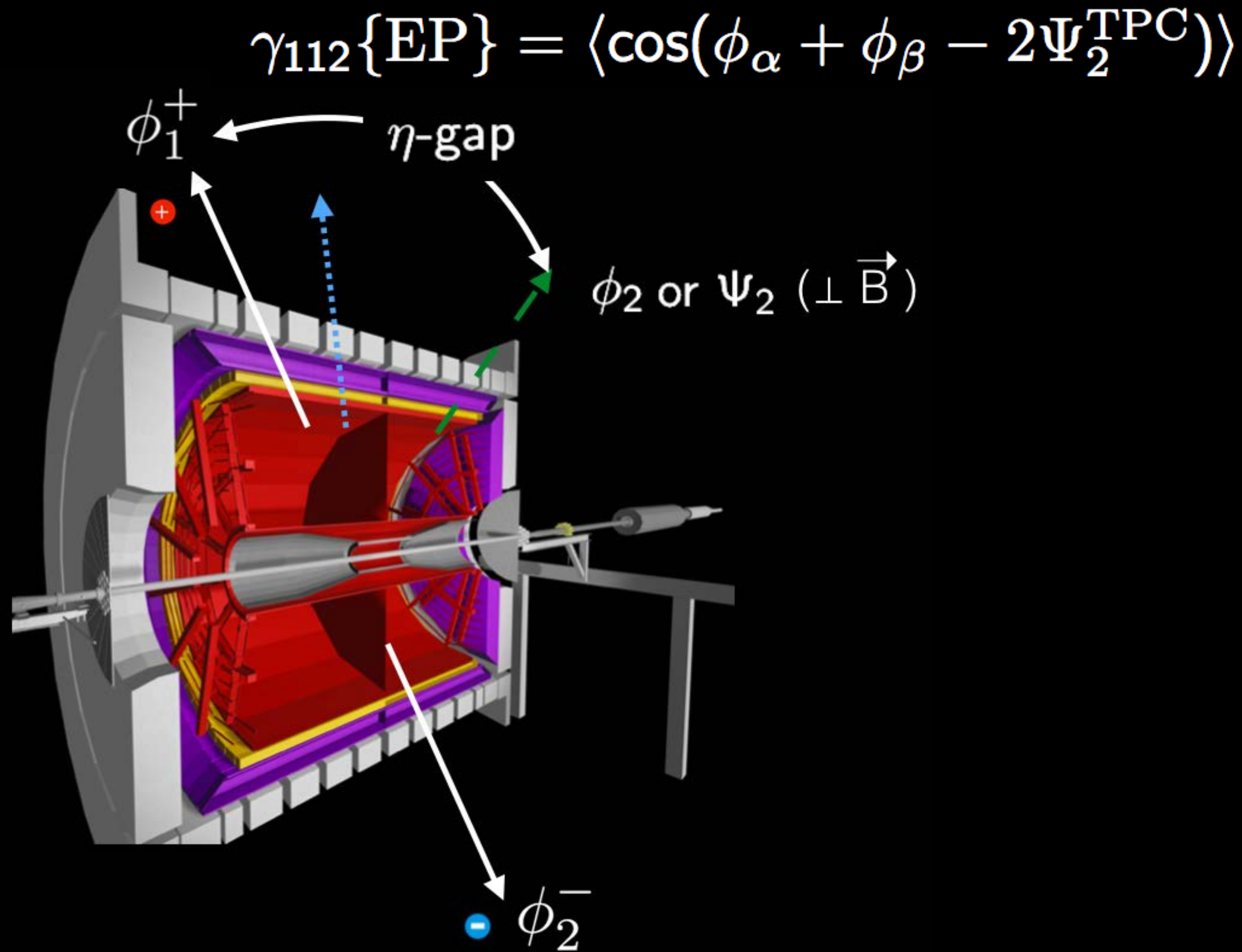
# Elliptic anisotropy



$v_2$  studied  $\eta$ -gap, ratio deviates from unity indicating difference in the shape, nuclear structure between two isobars (larger octupole deformation in Zr+Zr)

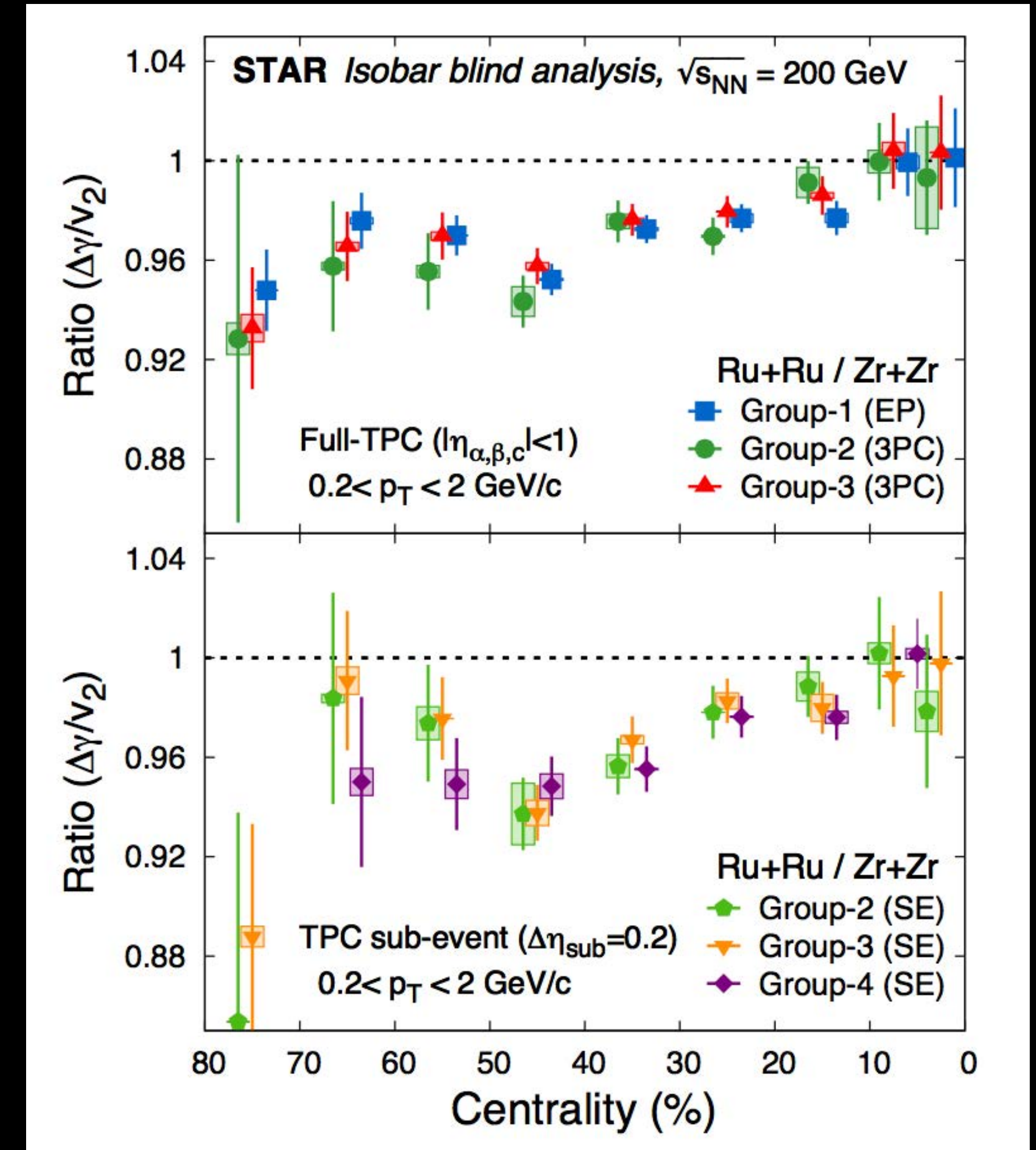
## CME sensitive observables

# Charge separation scaled by elliptic flow



$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{Ru+Ru}}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{Zr+Zr}}} \approx 1 + f_{\text{CME}}^{\text{Zr+Zr}} \underbrace{\left[ (B_{\text{Ru+Ru}}/B_{\text{Zr+Zr}})^2 - 1 \right]}_{0.18}$$

Unknown

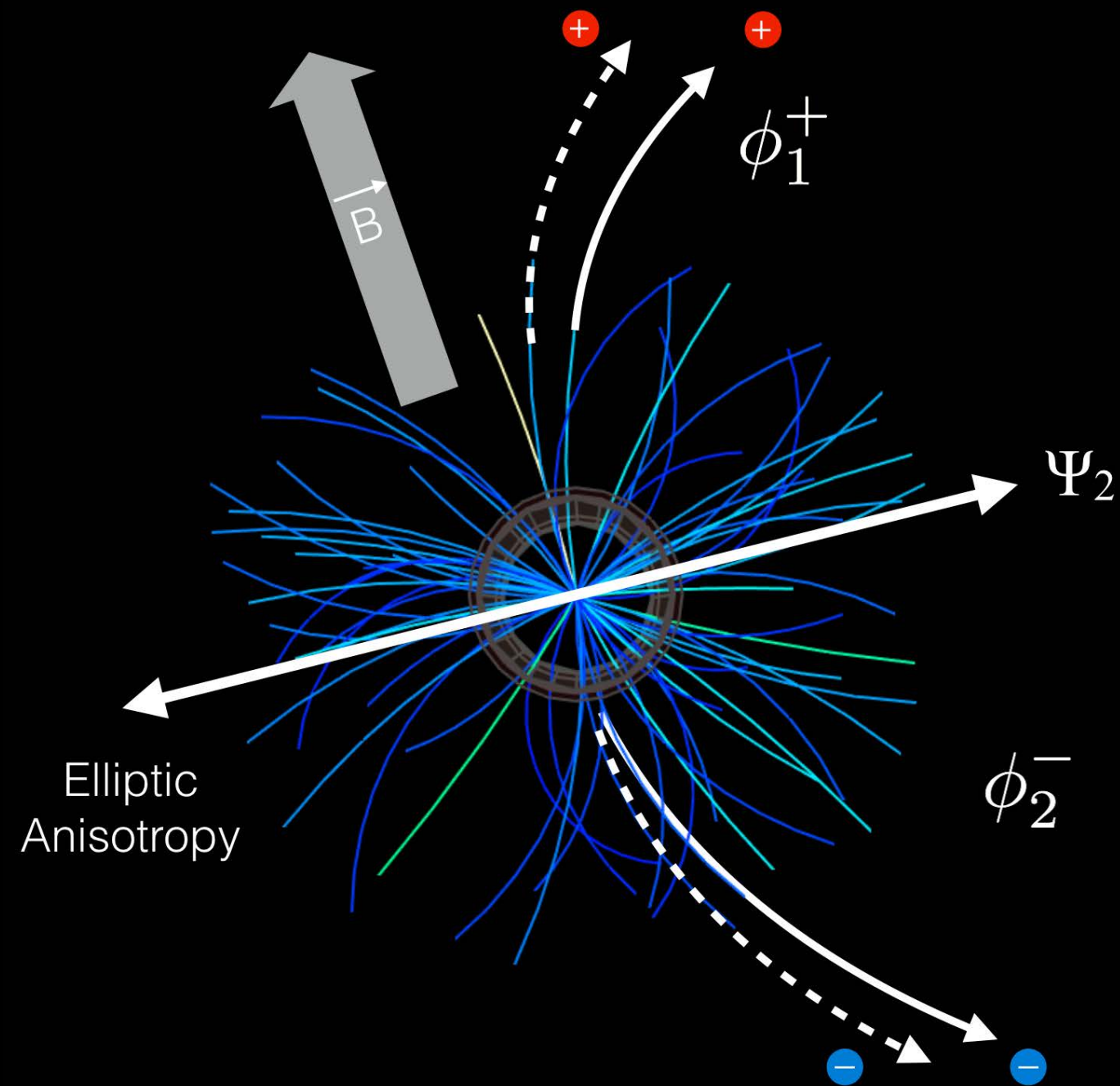


Pre-defined criteria for CME

$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{RuRu}}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{ZrZr}}} > 1 \quad \text{NOT seen!!}$$

# Experimental baseline-1: Randomize correlation with B-field

Charge separation across  $\Psi_2$   
plane (correlated to B-field)



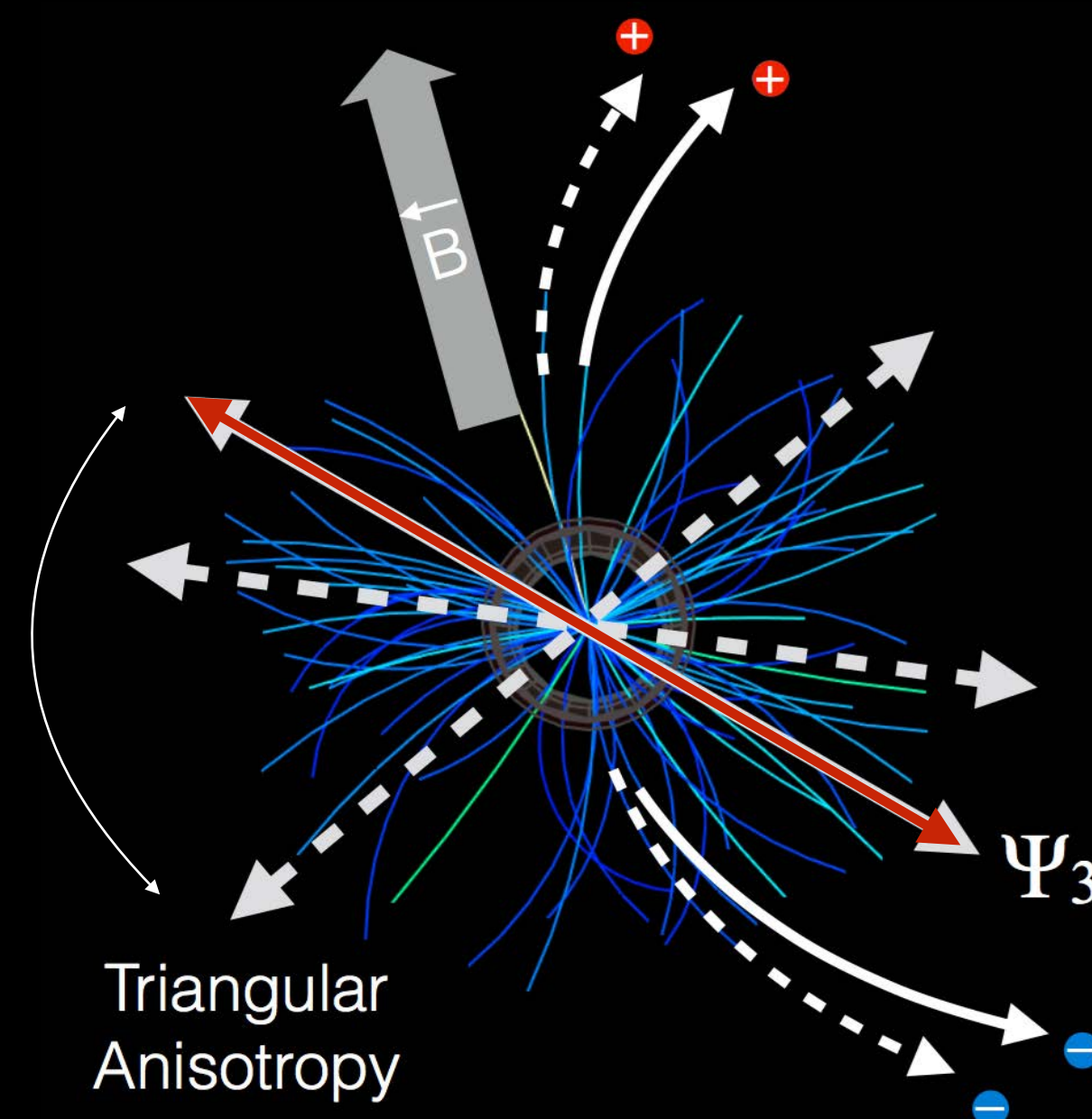
$$\gamma_{112} = \langle \cos(\phi_\alpha + \phi_\beta - 2\Psi_2) \rangle$$

Signal (B-field) + Background ( $\propto v_2$ )

Old criterion for CME:

$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{RuRu}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{ZrZr}} > 1$$

Charge separation across  $\Psi_3$   
plane (NOT correlated to B-field)



$$\gamma_{123} = \langle \cos(\phi_\alpha + 2\phi_\beta - 3\Psi_3) \rangle$$

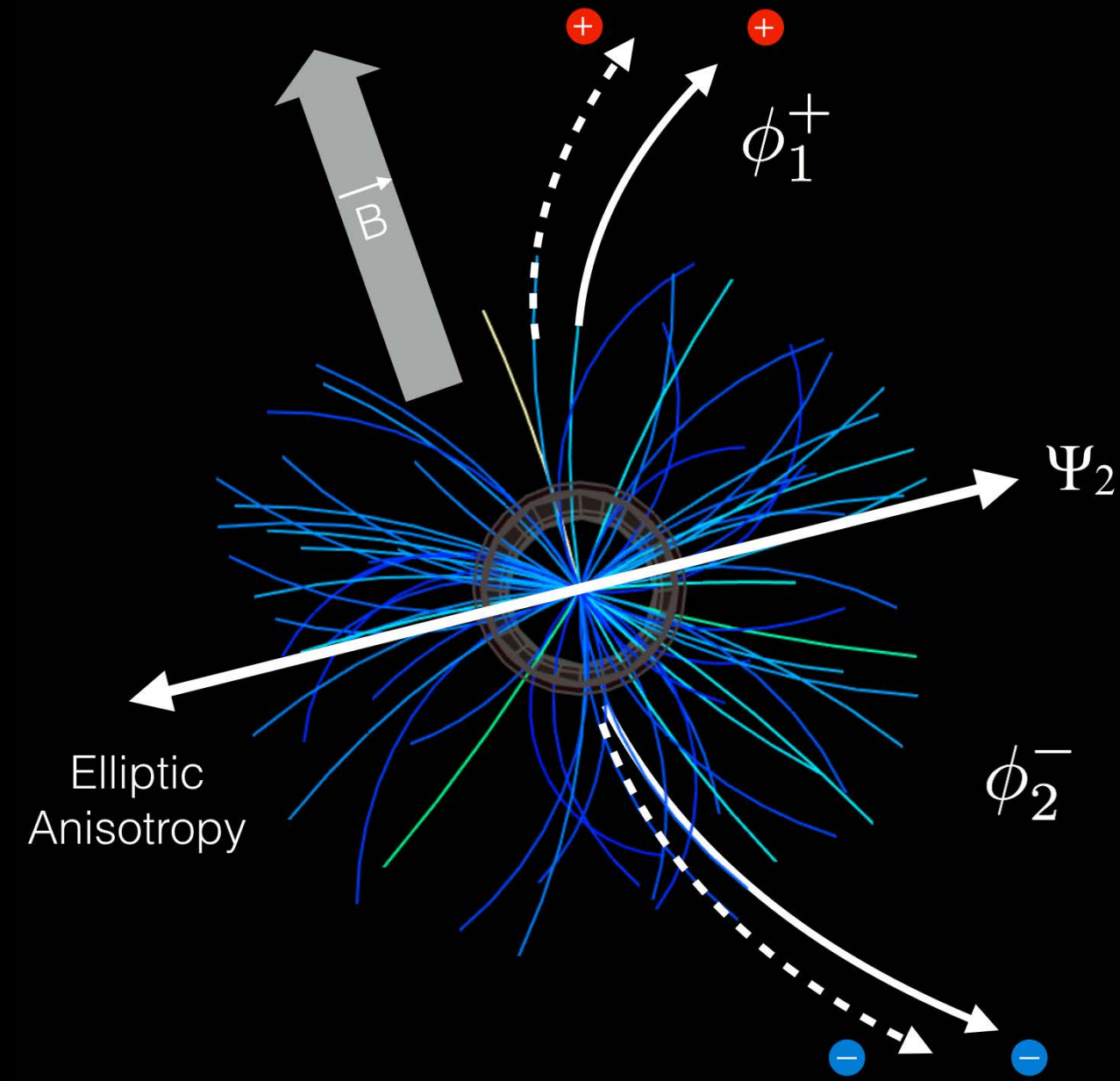
Background only ( $\propto v_3$ )

New criterion for CME:

$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma_{112}/v_2)^{RuRu}}{(\Delta\gamma_{112}/v_2)^{ZrZr}} > \frac{(\Delta\gamma_{123}/v_3)^{RuRu}}{(\Delta\gamma_{123}/v_3)^{ZrZr}}$$

# Experimental baseline-2: Ignore B-field direction

Charge separation correlated to event plane

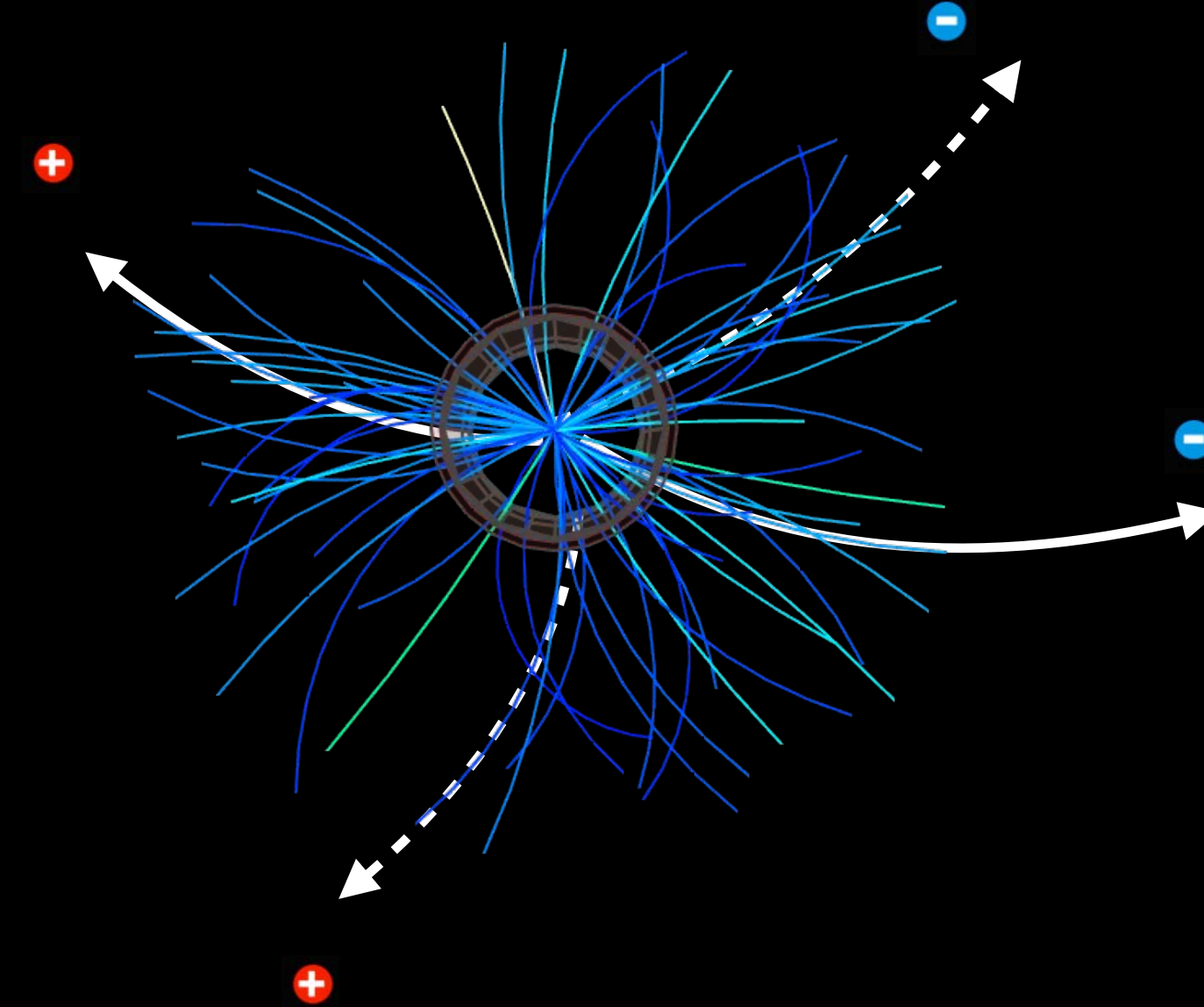


$$\gamma_{112} = \langle \cos(\phi_\alpha + \phi_\beta - 2\Psi_2) \rangle$$

Old criterion for CME:

$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{RuRu}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{ZrZr}} > 1$$

Charge separation NOT requiring correlation to event plane



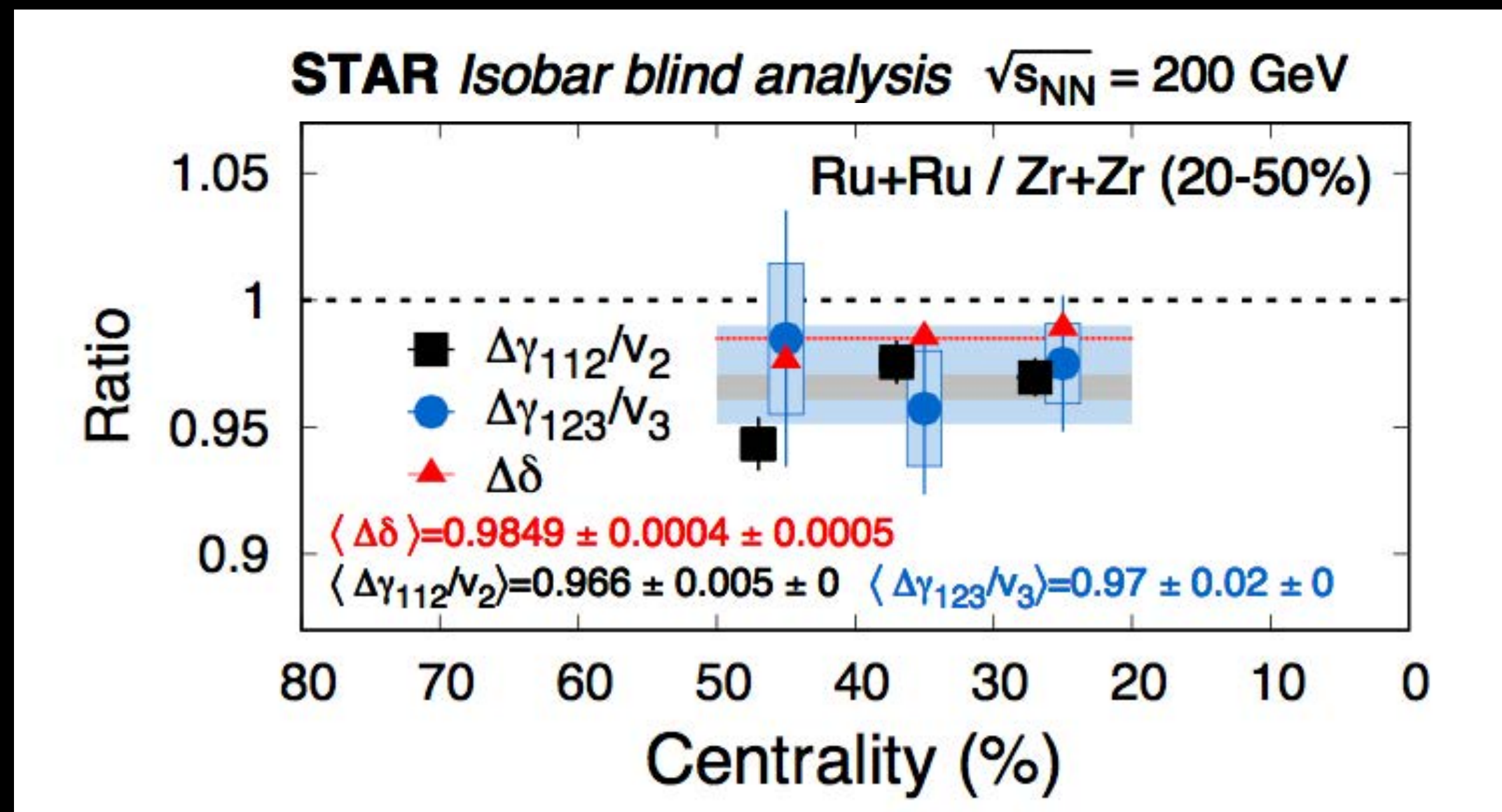
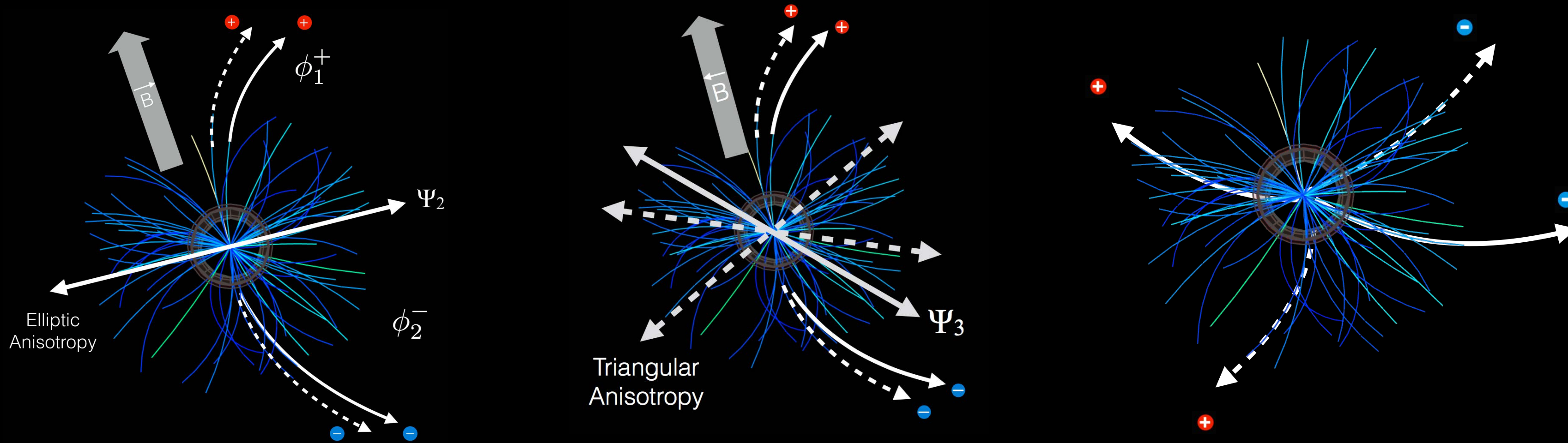
$$\delta \equiv \langle \cos(\phi_\alpha - \phi_\beta) \rangle$$

$$\Delta\delta = \delta(OS) - \delta(SS)$$

New criterion for CME:

$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{RuRu}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{ZrZr}} > \frac{(\Delta\delta)_{RuRu}}{(\Delta\delta)_{ZrZr}}$$

# Baseline measurement to put further constraints



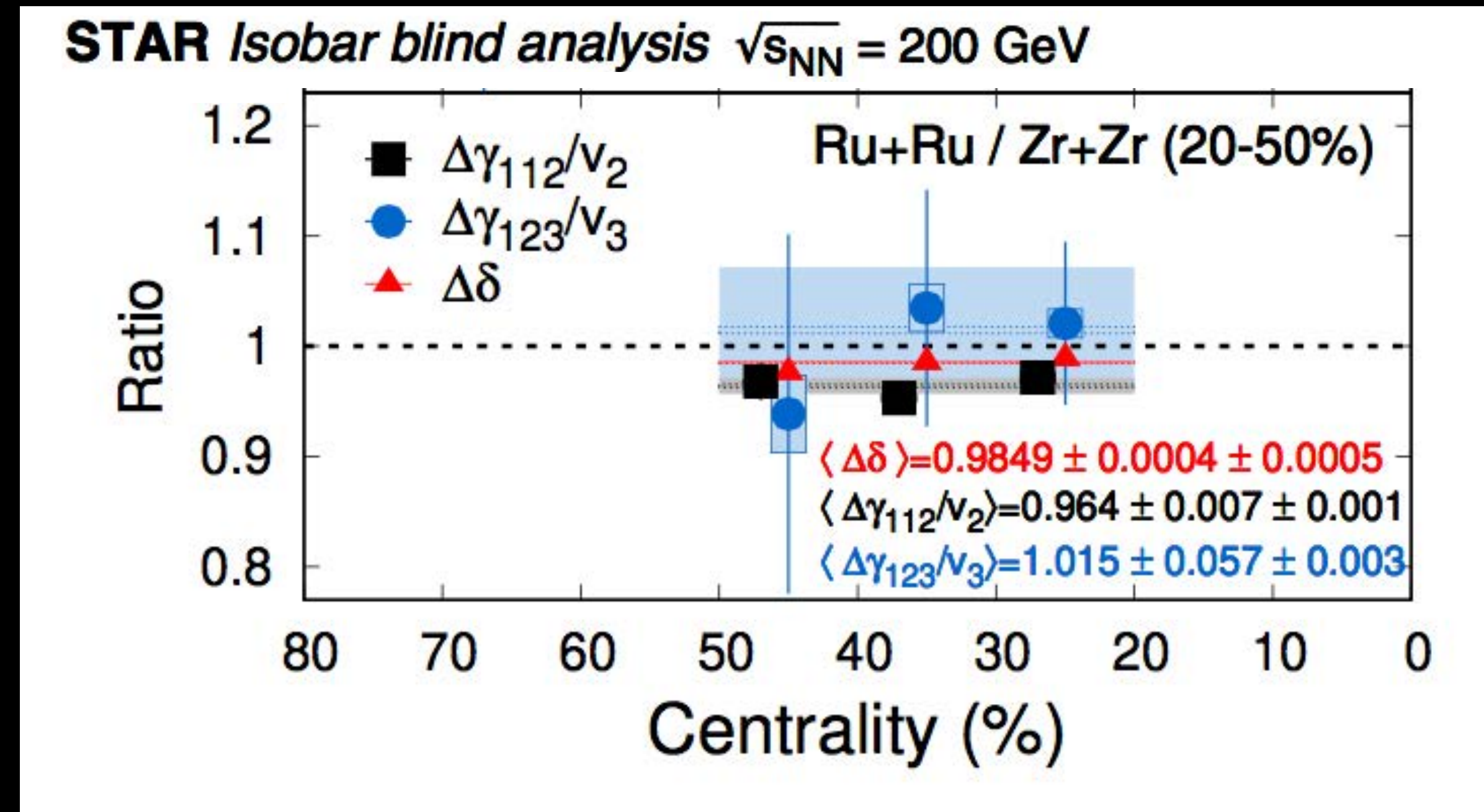
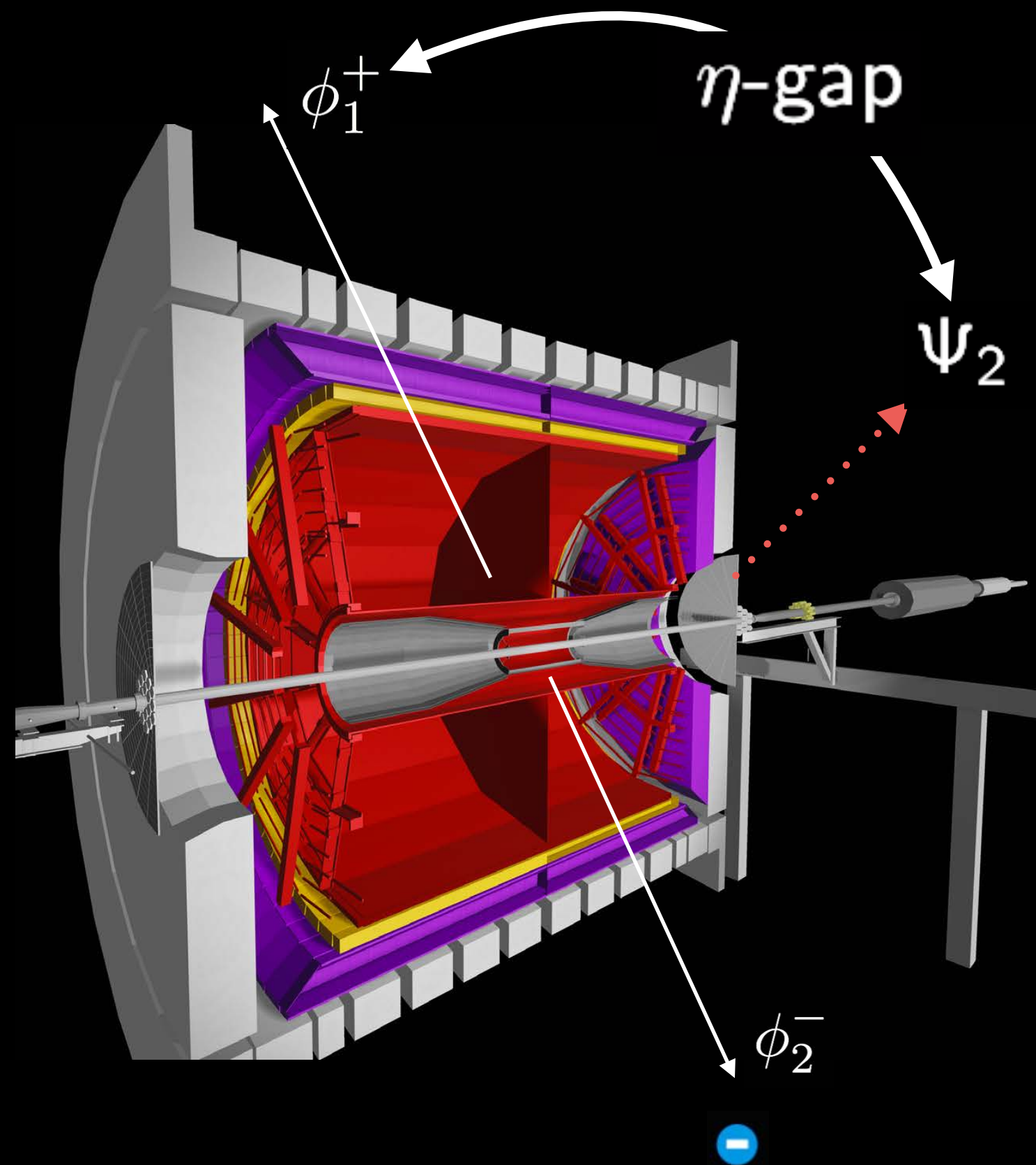
$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{RuRu}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{ZrZr}} > 1 \quad \text{Black above unity}$$

$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma_{112}/v_2)^{RuRu}}{(\Delta\gamma_{112}/v_2)^{ZrZr}} > \frac{(\Delta\gamma_{123}/v_3)^{RuRu}}{(\Delta\gamma_{123}/v_3)^{ZrZr}} \quad \text{Black above blue}$$

$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{RuRu}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{ZrZr}} > \frac{(\Delta\delta)_{RuRu}}{(\Delta\delta)_{ZrZr}} \quad \text{Black above red}$$

Data not compatible with any of the pre-defined CME signatures!!

# Measurement using STAR EPD (for the first time)



Pre-defined CME criteria:

$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{RuRu}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{ZrZr}} > 1$$

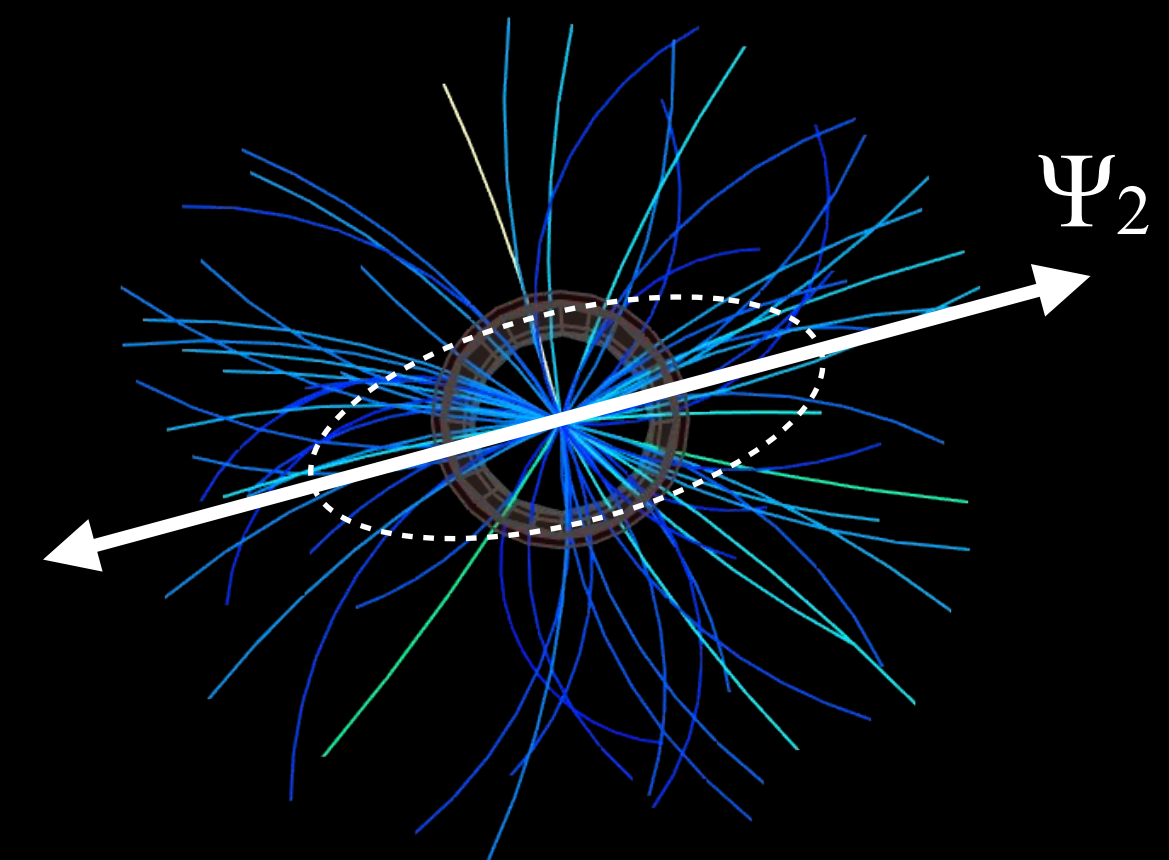
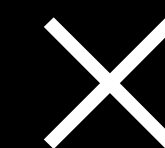
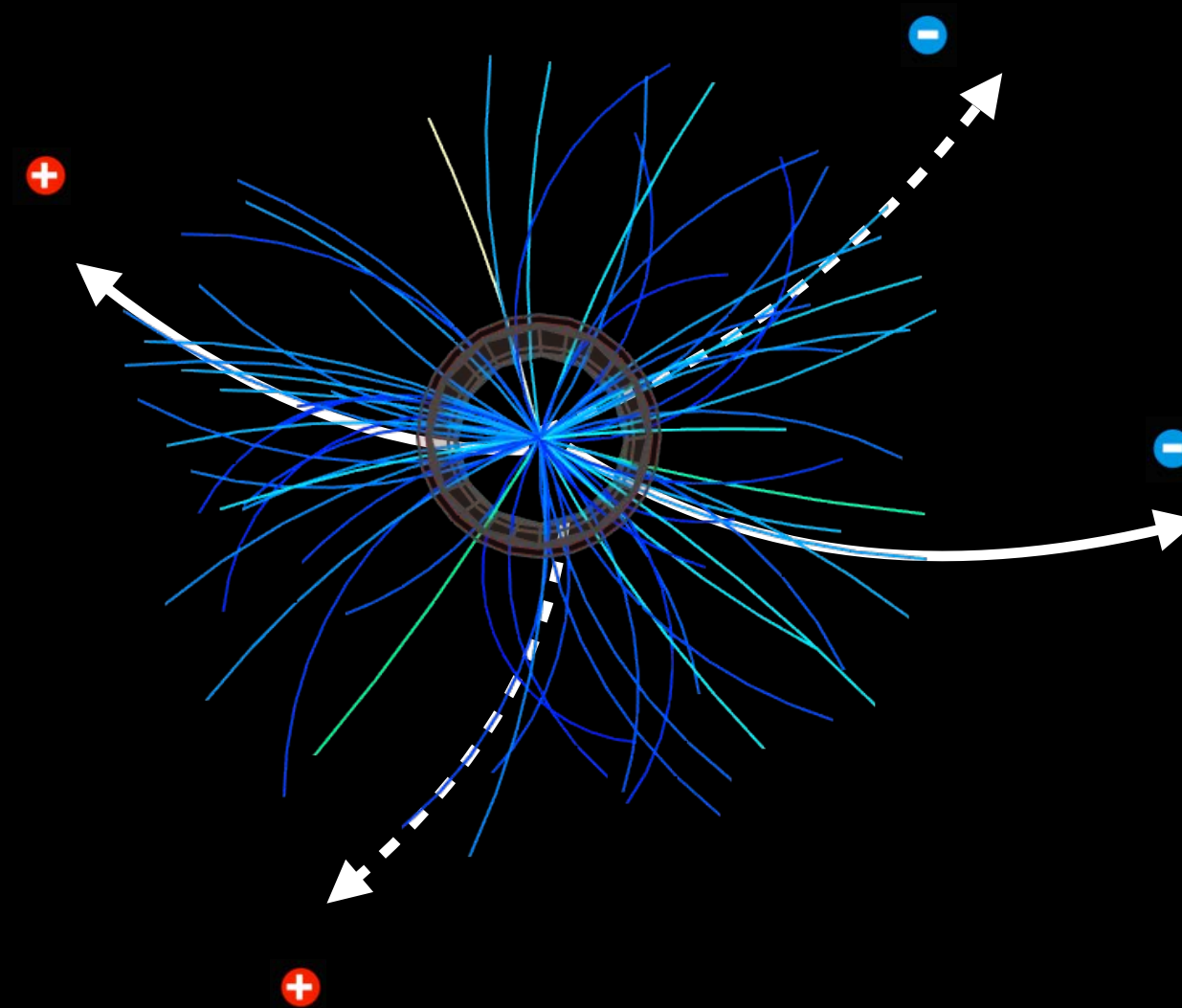
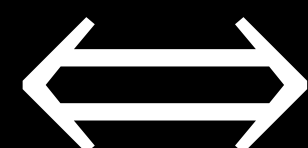
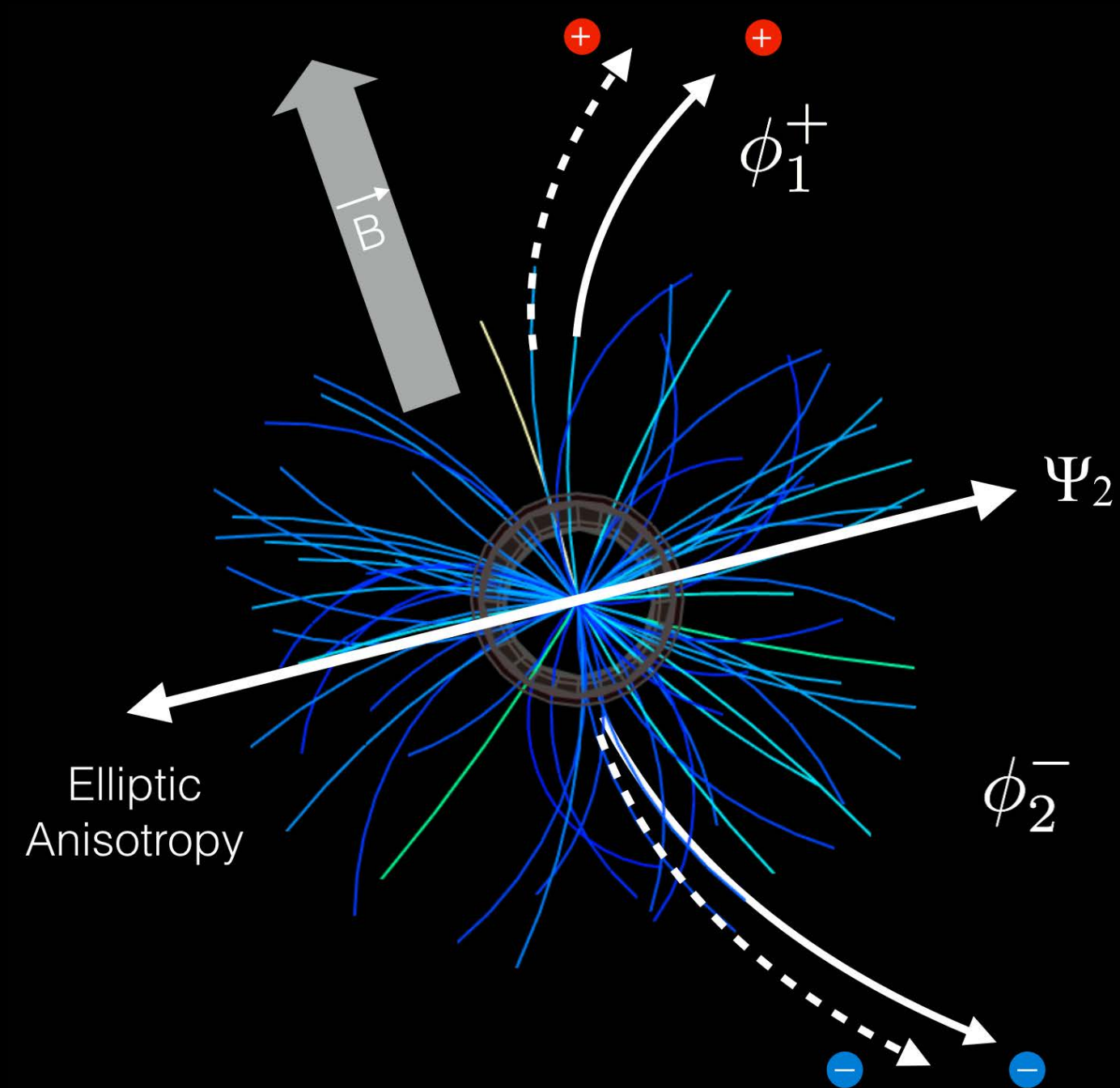
$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma_{112}/v_2)^{RuRu}}{(\Delta\gamma_{112}/v_2)^{ZrZr}} > \frac{(\Delta\gamma_{123}/v_3)^{RuRu}}{(\Delta\gamma_{123}/v_3)^{ZrZr}}$$

$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{RuRu}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{ZrZr}} > \frac{(\Delta\delta)_{RuRu}}{(\Delta\delta)_{ZrZr}}$$

This pre-defined CME signatures are NOT seen

# Factorization breaking

Primary observable



$$\gamma_{112}\{\text{EP}\} = \langle \cos(\phi_\alpha + \phi_\beta - 2\Psi_2^{\text{TPC}}) \rangle \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \delta = \langle \cos(\phi_\alpha - \phi_\beta) \rangle \quad \times \quad v_2 = \langle \cos(2\phi - \Psi_2) \rangle$$

$$\gamma_{112} = \langle \cos(\phi_\alpha - \phi_\beta + 2\phi_\beta - 2\Psi_2) \rangle \approx \langle \cos(\phi_\alpha - \phi_\beta) \cos(2\phi_\beta - 2\Psi_2) \rangle = \kappa_{112} \langle \cos(\phi_\alpha - \phi_\beta) \rangle \langle \cos(2\phi_\beta - 2\Psi_2) \rangle$$

$$\gamma_{112} = \kappa_{112} \Delta\delta \times v_2$$

# Measurement of factorization breaking observables

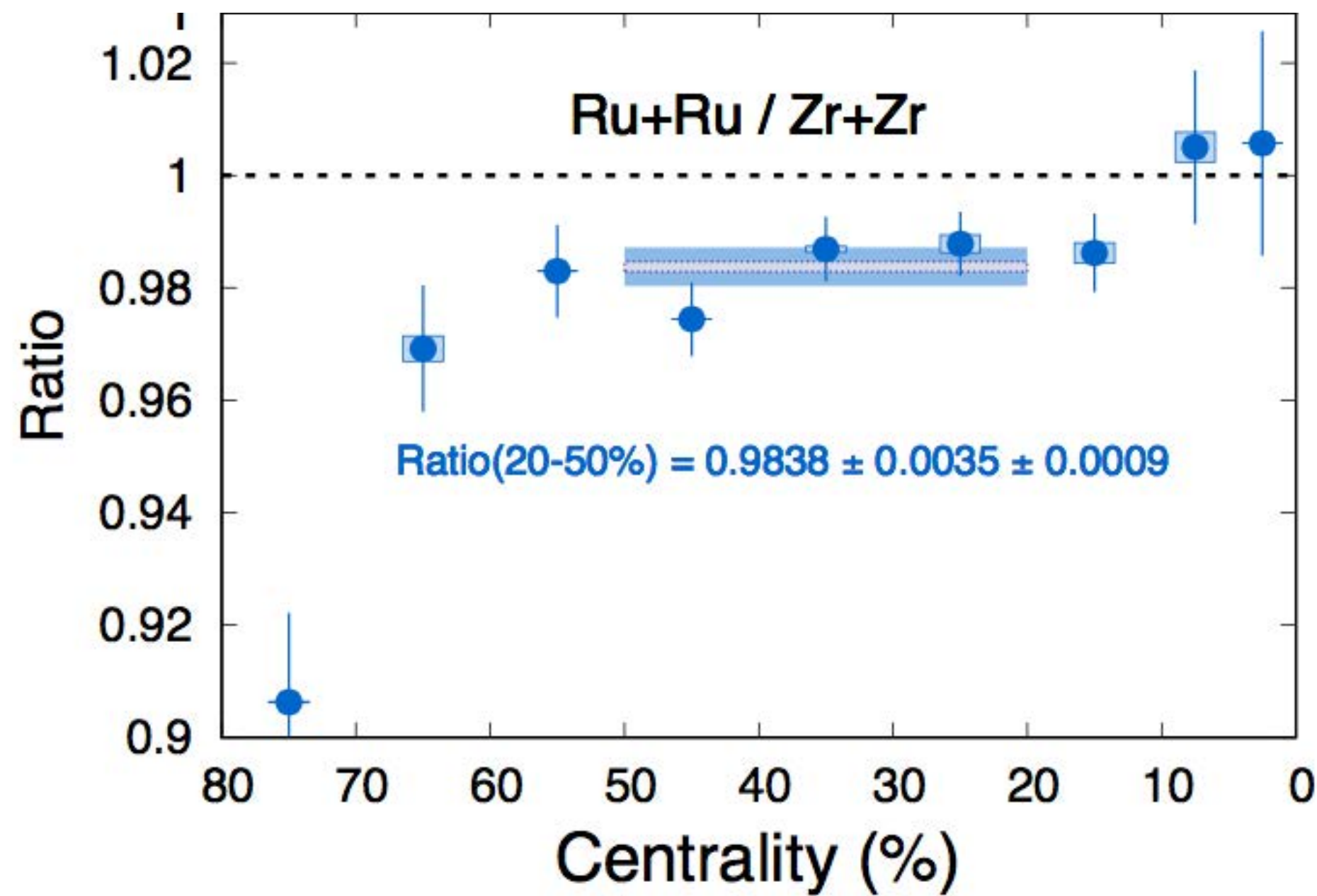
$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{RuRu}}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{ZrZr}}} > \frac{(\Delta\delta)_{\text{RuRu}}}{(\Delta\delta)_{\text{ZrZr}}} \Rightarrow \frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2 \Delta\delta)_{\text{Ru+Ru}}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2 \Delta\delta)_{\text{Zr+Zr}}} > 1$$

$$\frac{(\kappa_{112})_{\text{Ru+Ru}}}{(\kappa_{112})_{\text{Zr+Zr}}} > 1$$

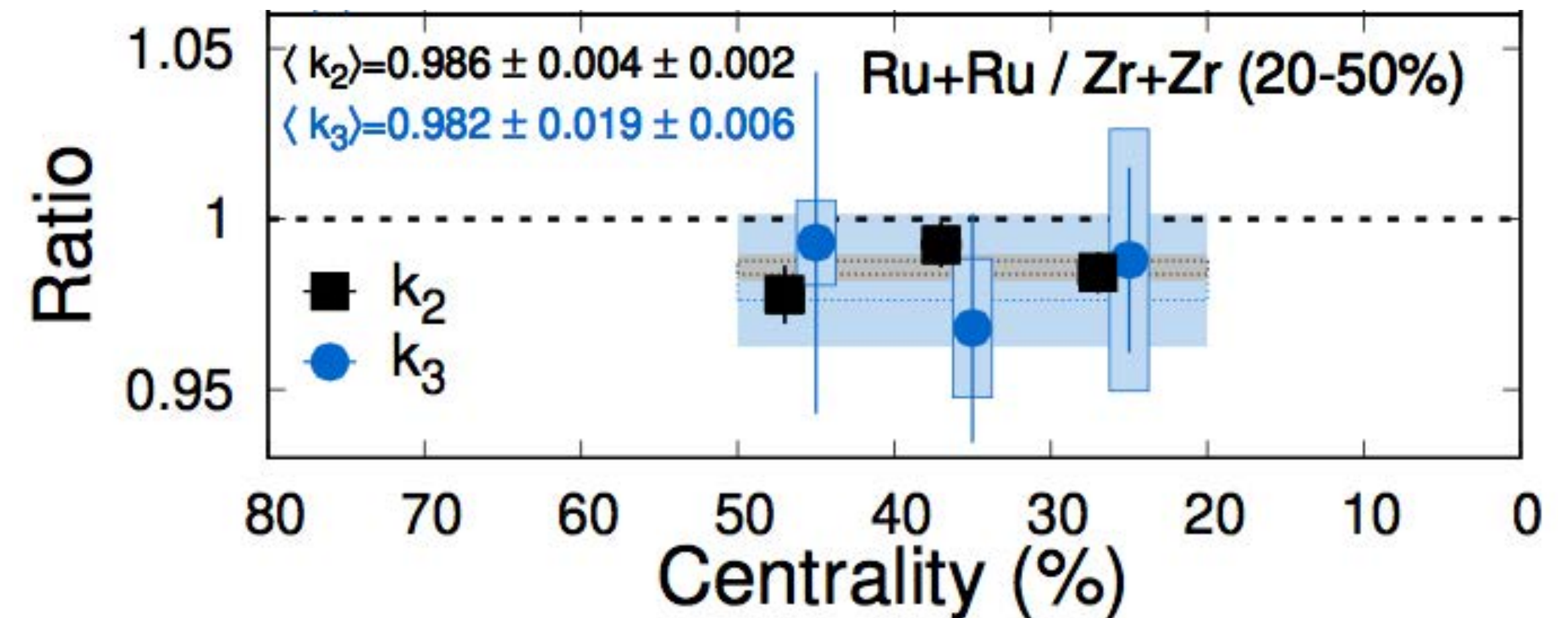
$$k_n = \frac{\Delta \langle \langle \cos(\Delta\phi_{\alpha\beta}) \cos(n\Delta\phi_{\beta c}) \rangle \rangle}{\Delta\delta_{\alpha,\beta} \times v_n^2 \{2\}}$$

$$\frac{k_2^{\text{Ru+Ru}}}{k_2^{\text{Zr+Zr}}} > \frac{k_3^{\text{Ru+Ru}}}{k_3^{\text{Zr+Zr}}}$$

**STAR Isobar blind analysis**  $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 200$  GeV

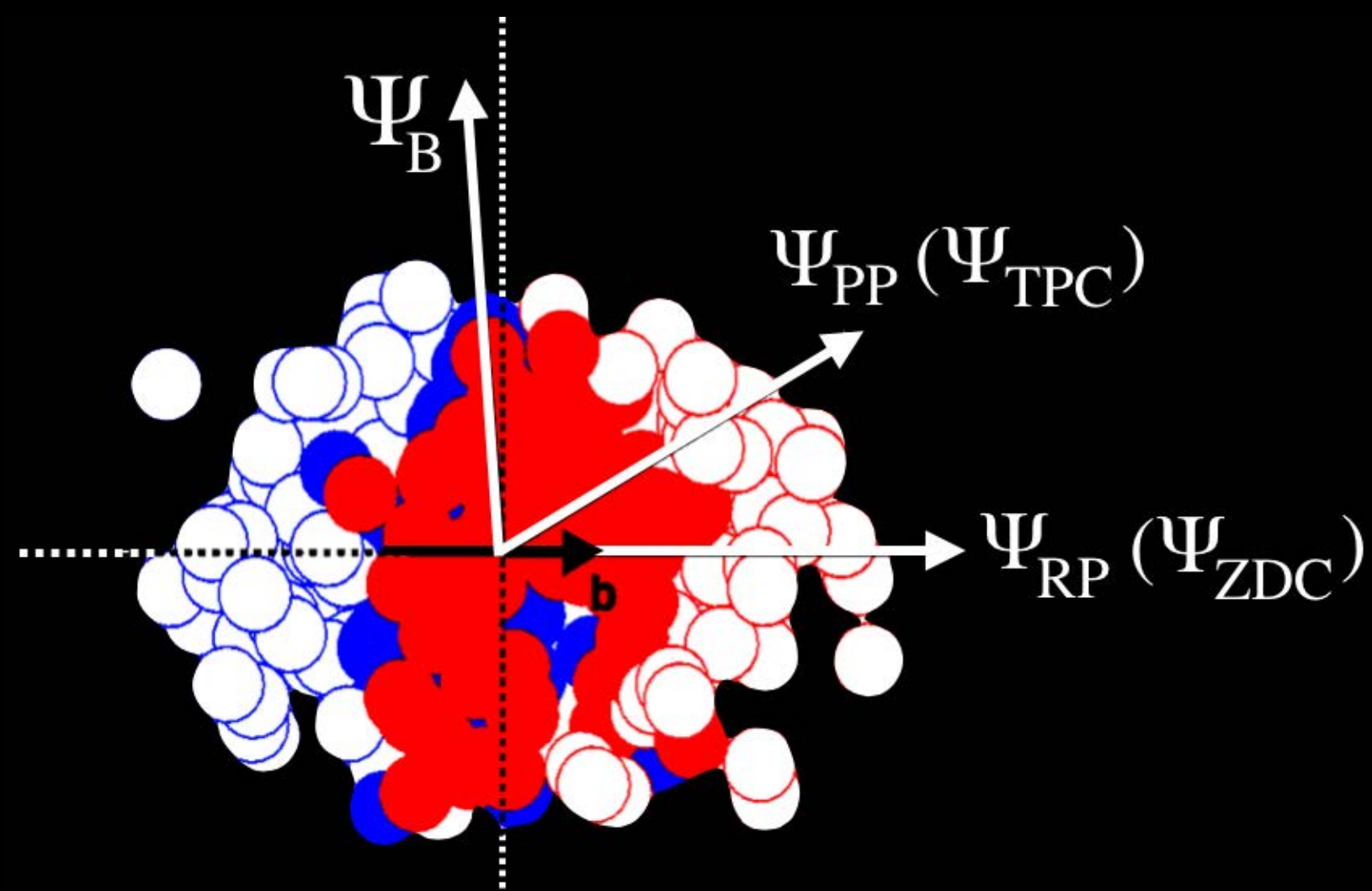


**STAR Isobar blind analysis**  $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 200$  GeV



## Measurements of CME fraction

# CME fraction using spectator/participant planes



$$\Delta\gamma = \Delta\gamma^{\text{sig}} + \Delta\gamma^{\text{bkg}}$$

$$f_{\text{CME}} = \frac{\Delta\gamma^{\text{sig}}}{\Delta\gamma}$$

Four equations, four unknowns:

$$\Delta\gamma^{\text{sig}}(\Psi_{\text{ZDC}}) + \Delta\gamma^{\text{bkg}}(\Psi_{\text{ZDC}}) = \Delta\gamma(\Psi_{\text{ZDC}})$$

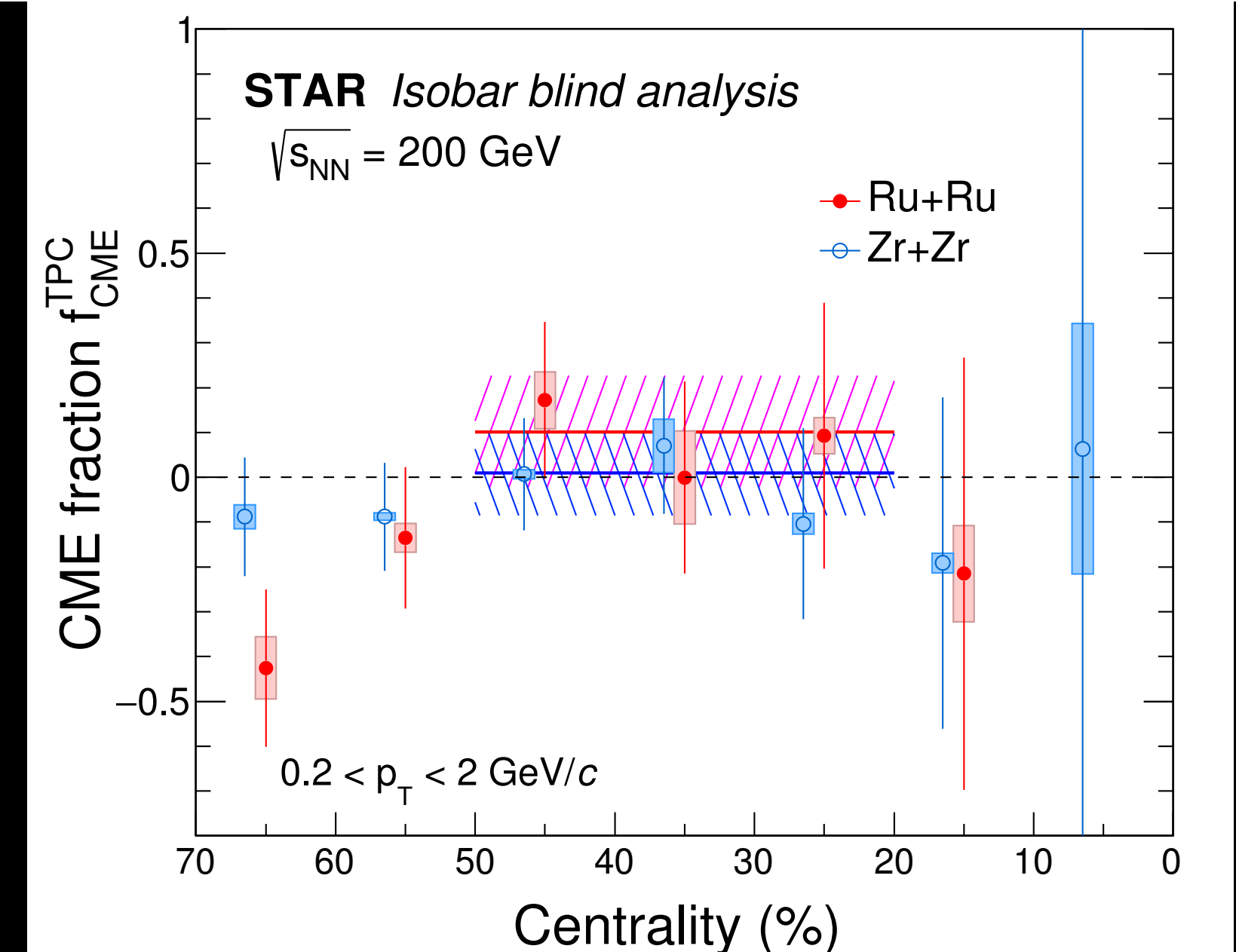
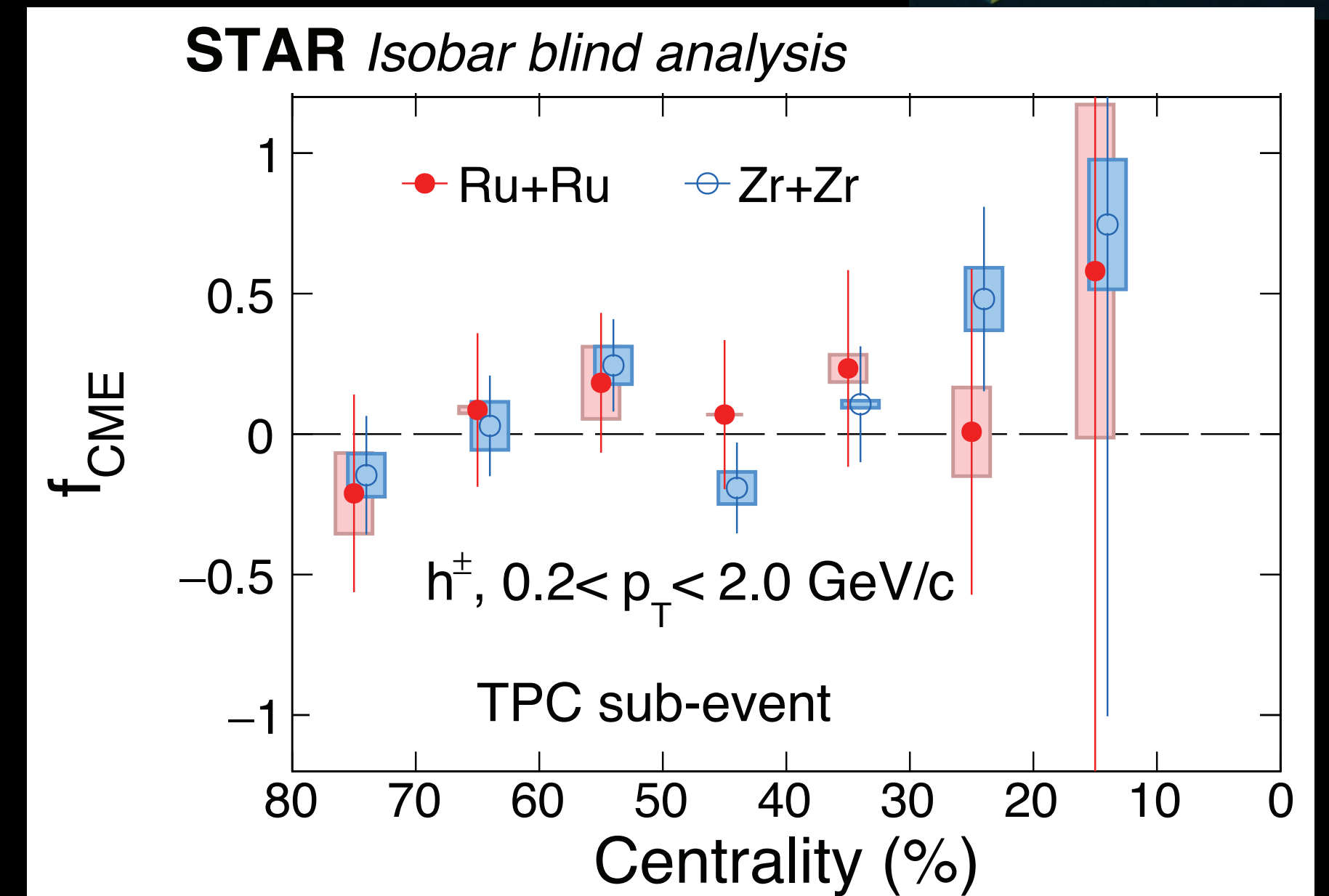
$$\Delta\gamma^{\text{sig}}(\Psi_{\text{TPC}}) + \Delta\gamma^{\text{bkg}}(\Psi_{\text{TPC}}) = \Delta\gamma(\Psi_{\text{TPC}})$$

$$\Delta\gamma^{\text{bkg}}(\Psi_{\text{ZDC}})/\Delta\gamma^{\text{bkg}}(\Psi_{\text{TPC}}) = v_2(\Psi_{\text{ZDC}})/v_2(\Psi_{\text{TPC}})$$

$$\Delta\gamma^{\text{sig}}(\Psi_{\text{ZDC}})/\Delta\gamma^{\text{sig}}(\Psi_{\text{TPC}}) = v_2(\Psi_{\text{TPC}})/v_2(\Psi_{\text{ZDC}})$$

Case of CME from this analysis is  $f_{\text{CME}}(\text{Ru}) > f_{\text{CME}}(\text{Zr})$

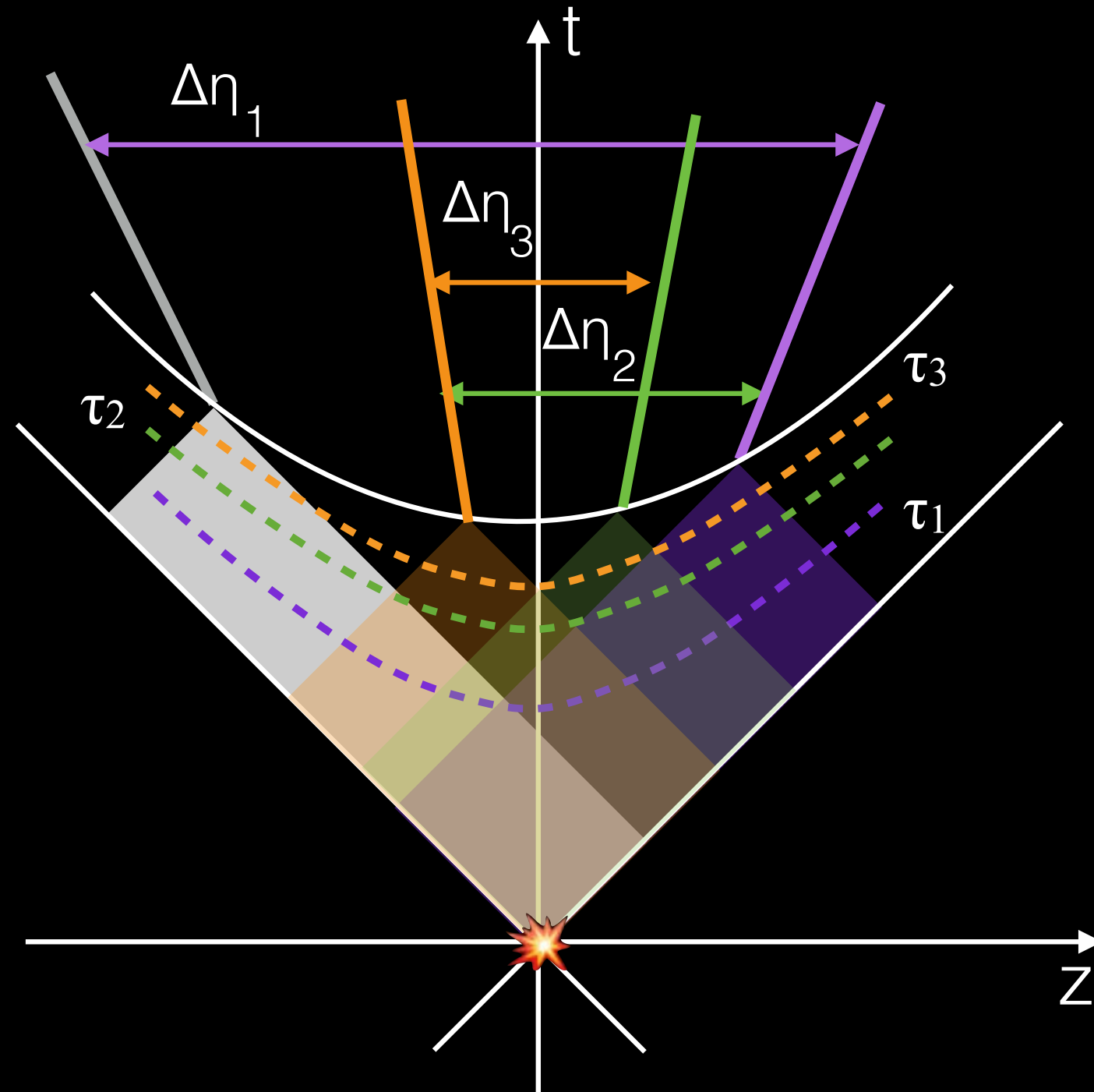
Valuable measurement but not decisive due to large uncertainties



# Differential measurements of charge separation

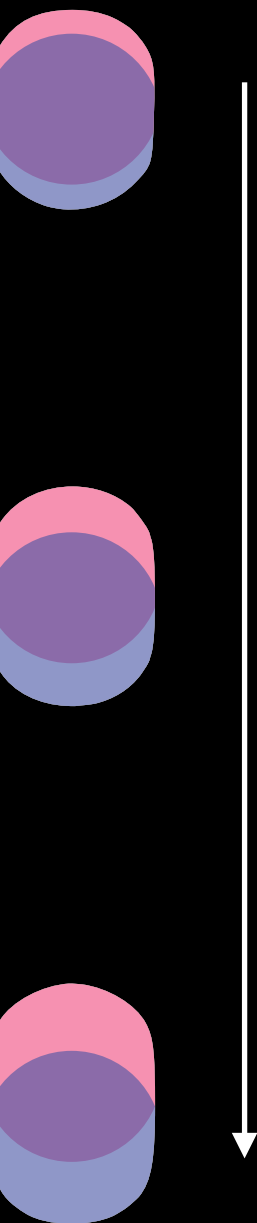
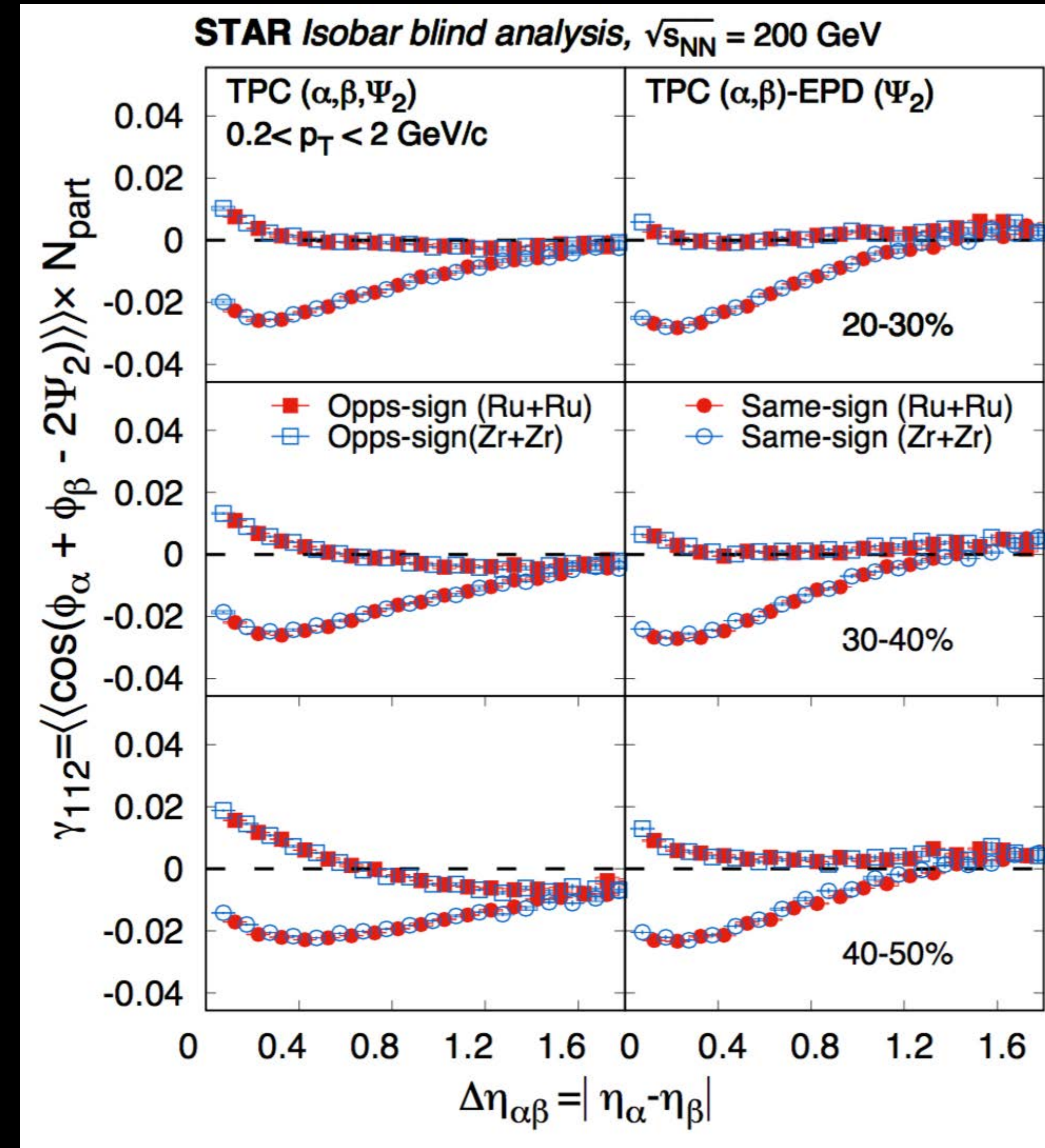
# Pseudorapidity distribution of charge separation

Causality precludes late-time correlations to spread over large  $\eta$  (wide acceptance  $\rightarrow$  strength)

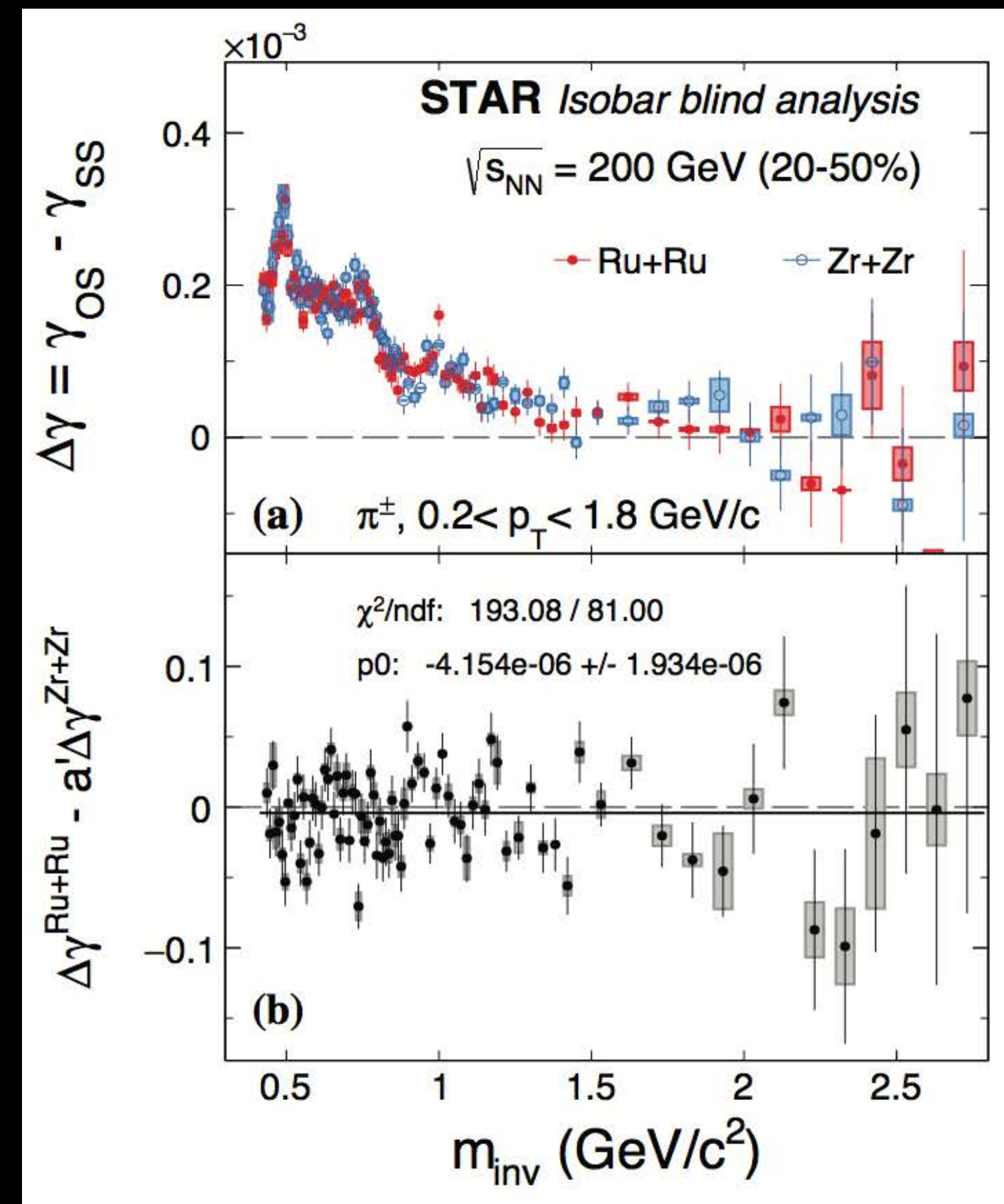
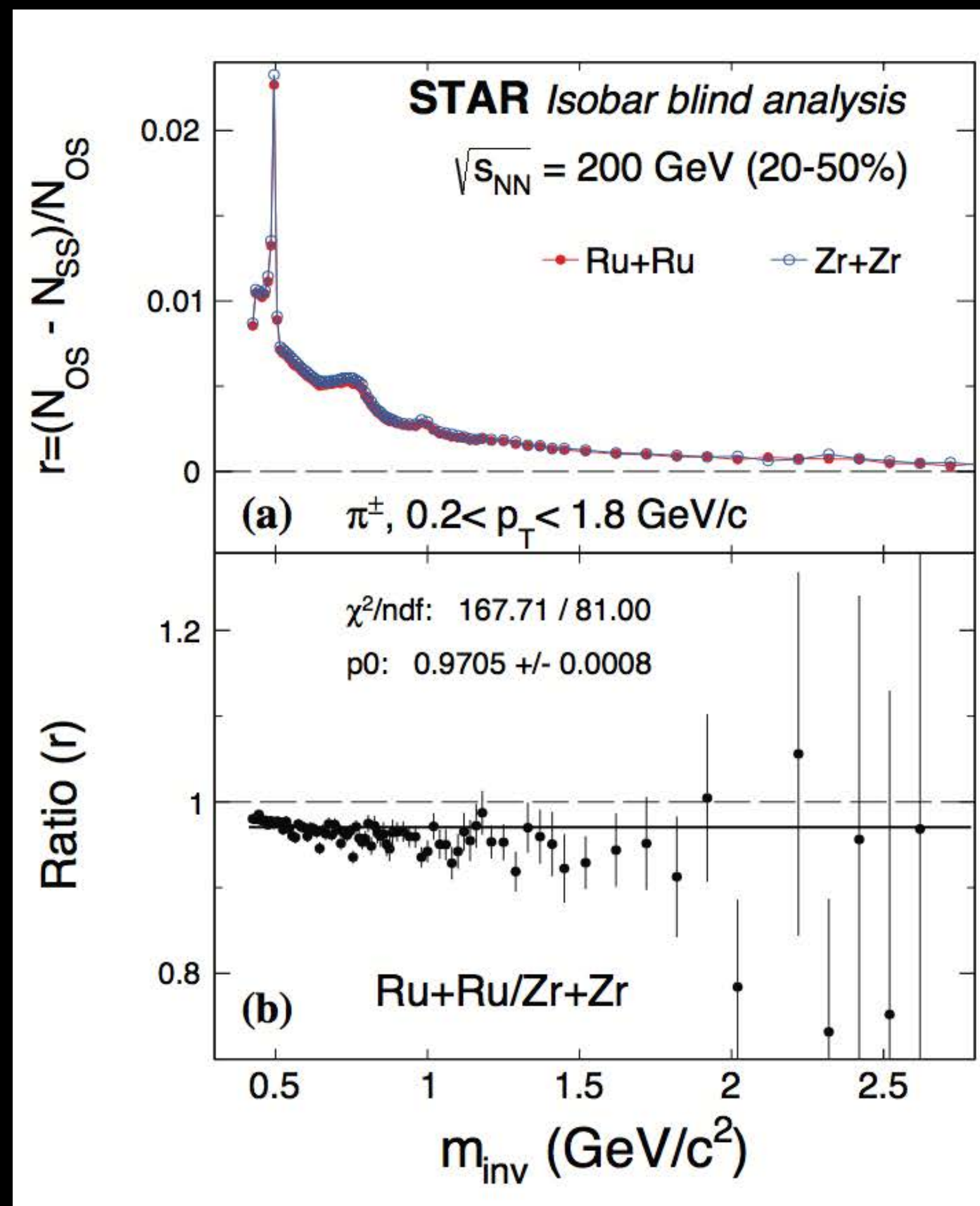


B-field driven charge separation:  
large  $\Delta\eta > 1$   
Resonance decay: smaller  $\Delta\eta < 1$

The relative pseudorapidity dependence is similar between the two species



# Invariant mass dependence of charge separation



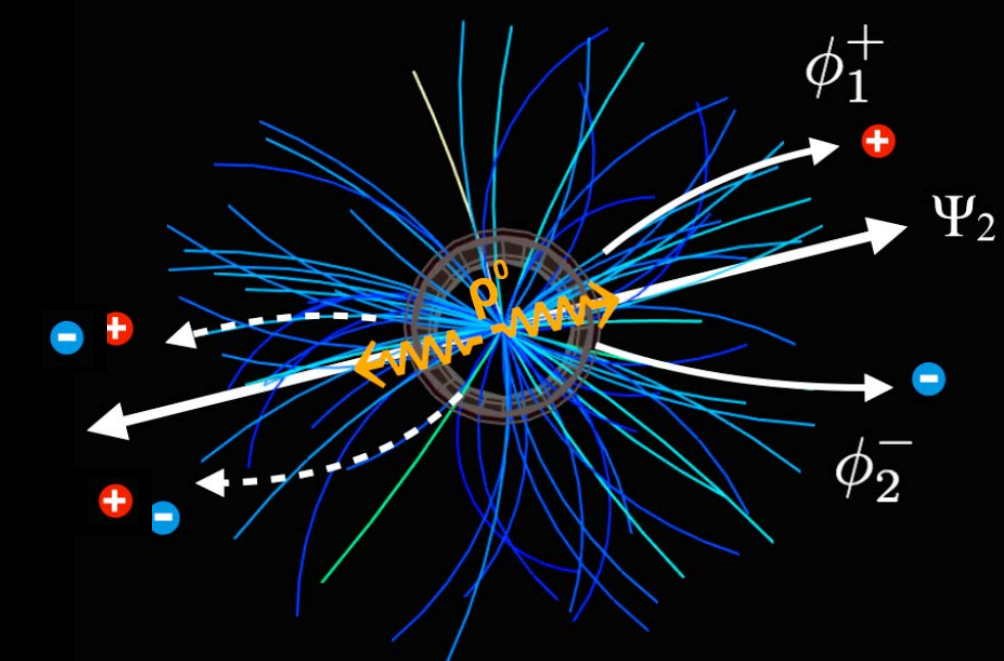
Resonances are identifiable as peaks in invariant mass distribution

Pre-defined CME criteria:

$$\Delta\gamma^{\text{Ru+Ru}} - a' \Delta\gamma^{\text{Zr+Zr}} > 0$$

$$a' = v_2^{\text{Ru+Ru}} / v_2^{\text{Zr+Zr}}$$

This pre-defined signature is NOT seen



## Alternative approach: The R variable

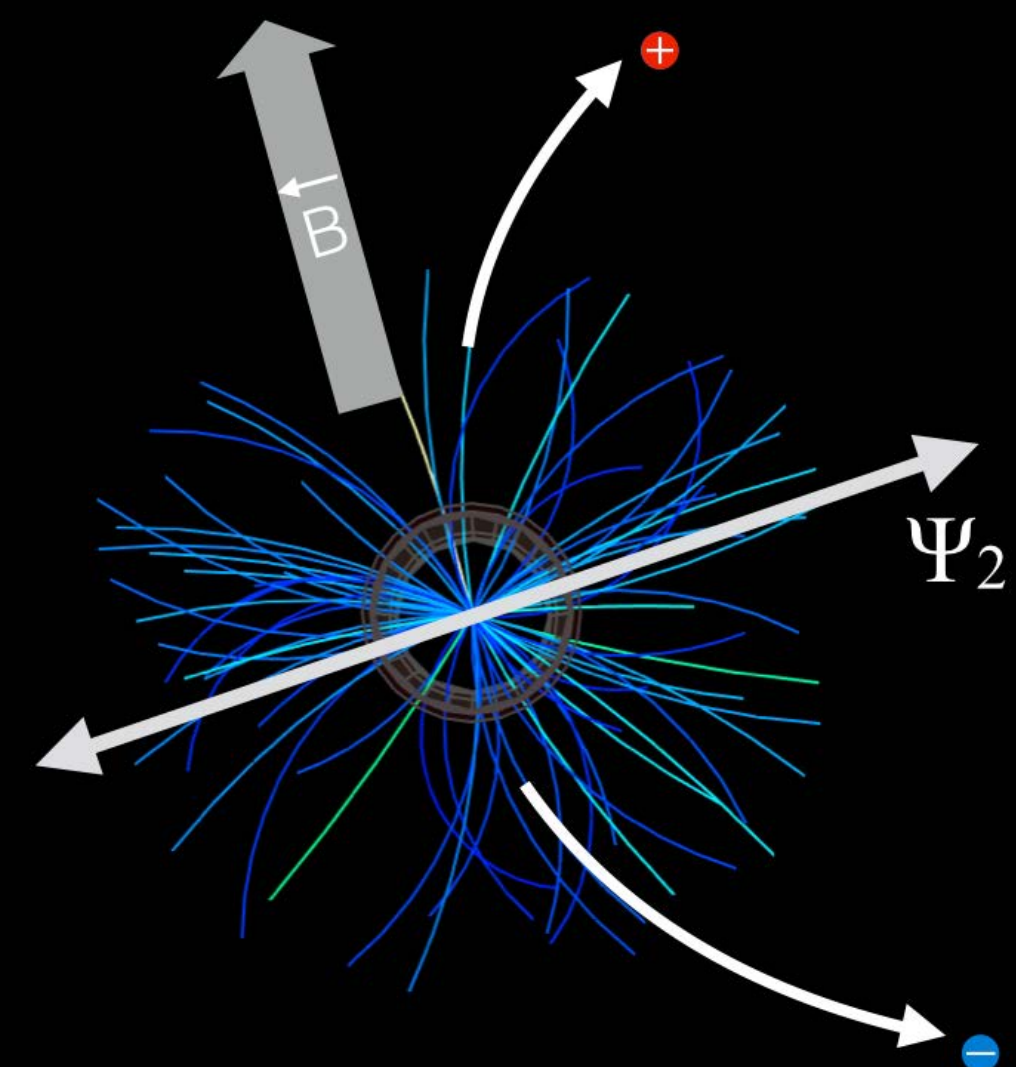
# R variable: an alternate measure of charge separation

R-variable is a ratio of distribution  
(of event-by-event charged-dependent dipole anisotropy)

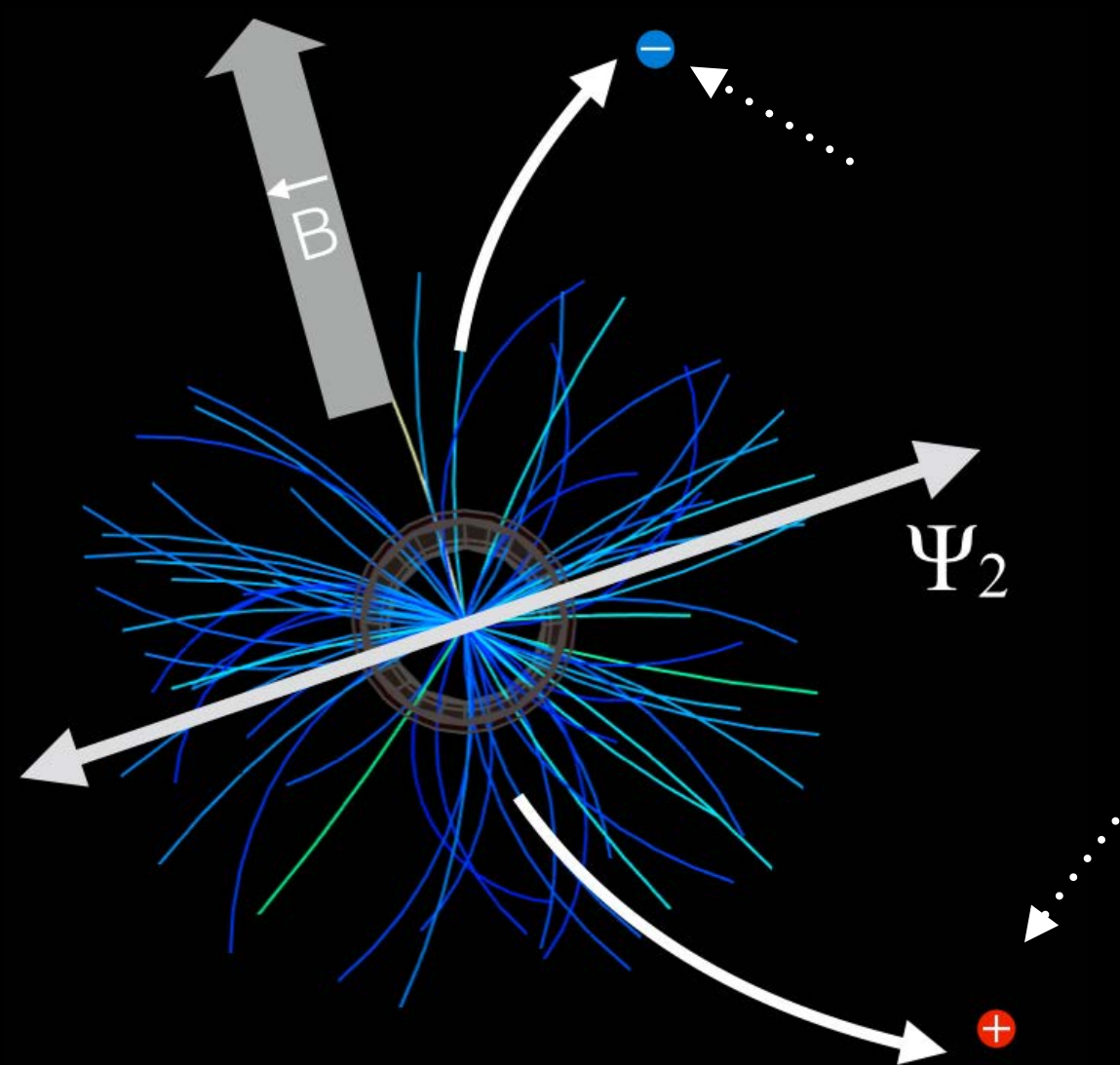
$$R_{\Psi_2}(\Delta S) = C_{\Psi_2}(\Delta S) / C_{\Psi_2}^{\perp}(\Delta S),$$

$$C_{\Psi_2}(\Delta S) = \frac{N_{\text{real}}(\Delta S)}{N_{\text{shuffled}}(\Delta S)},$$

$$\Delta S = \frac{\sum_1^{n^+} w_i^+ \sin(\Delta\varphi_2)}{\sum_1^{n^+} w_i^+} - \frac{\sum_1^{n^-} w_i^- \sin(\Delta\varphi_2)}{\sum_1^{n^-} w_i^-},$$



Real-Event

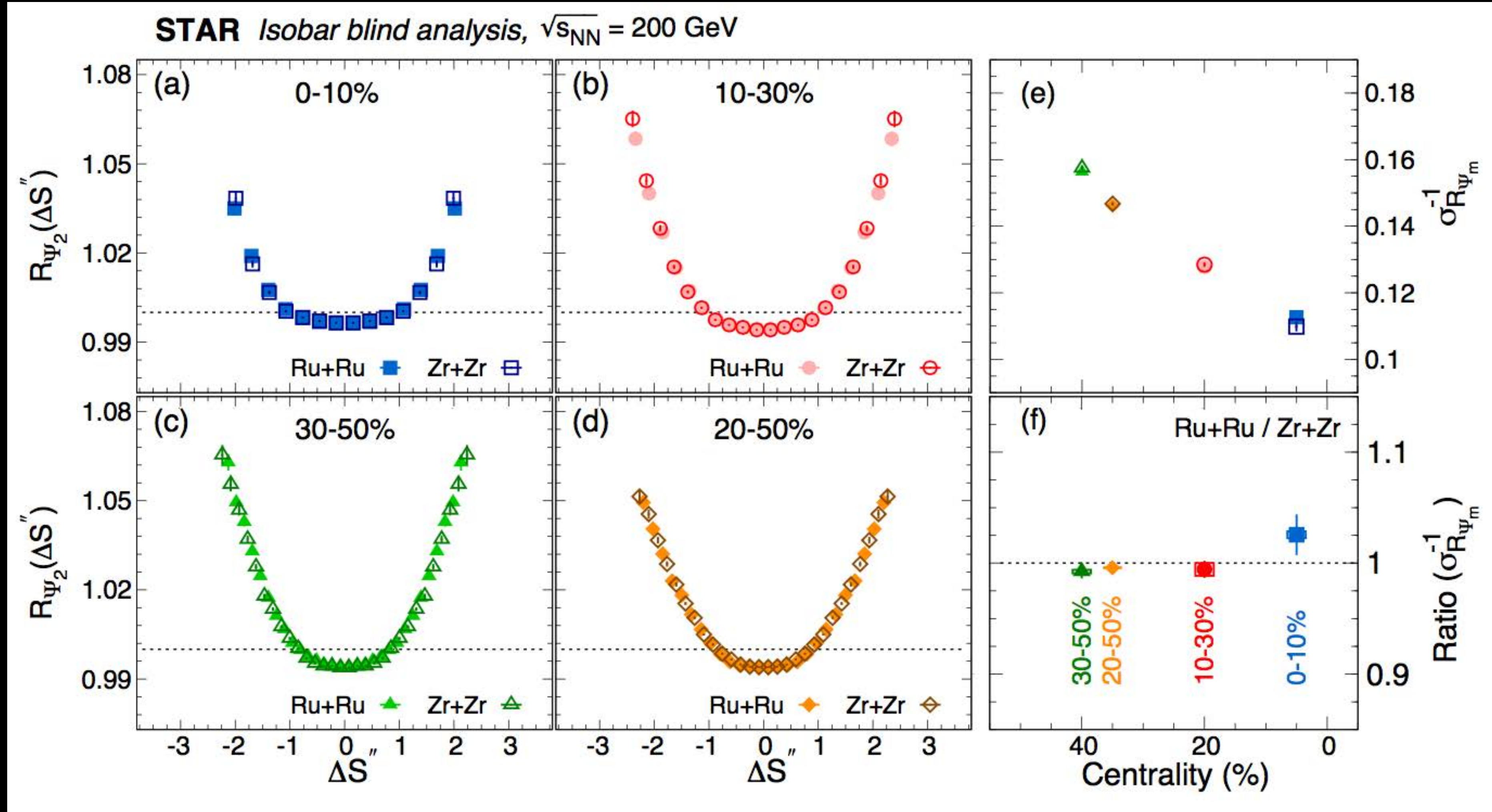


Shuffled-Event

The width of R-variable is sensitive to signal + Background

The case for CME is:  $1/\sigma_{R_{\Psi_2}}(Ru + Ru) > 1/\sigma_{R_{\Psi_2}}(Zr + Zr)$

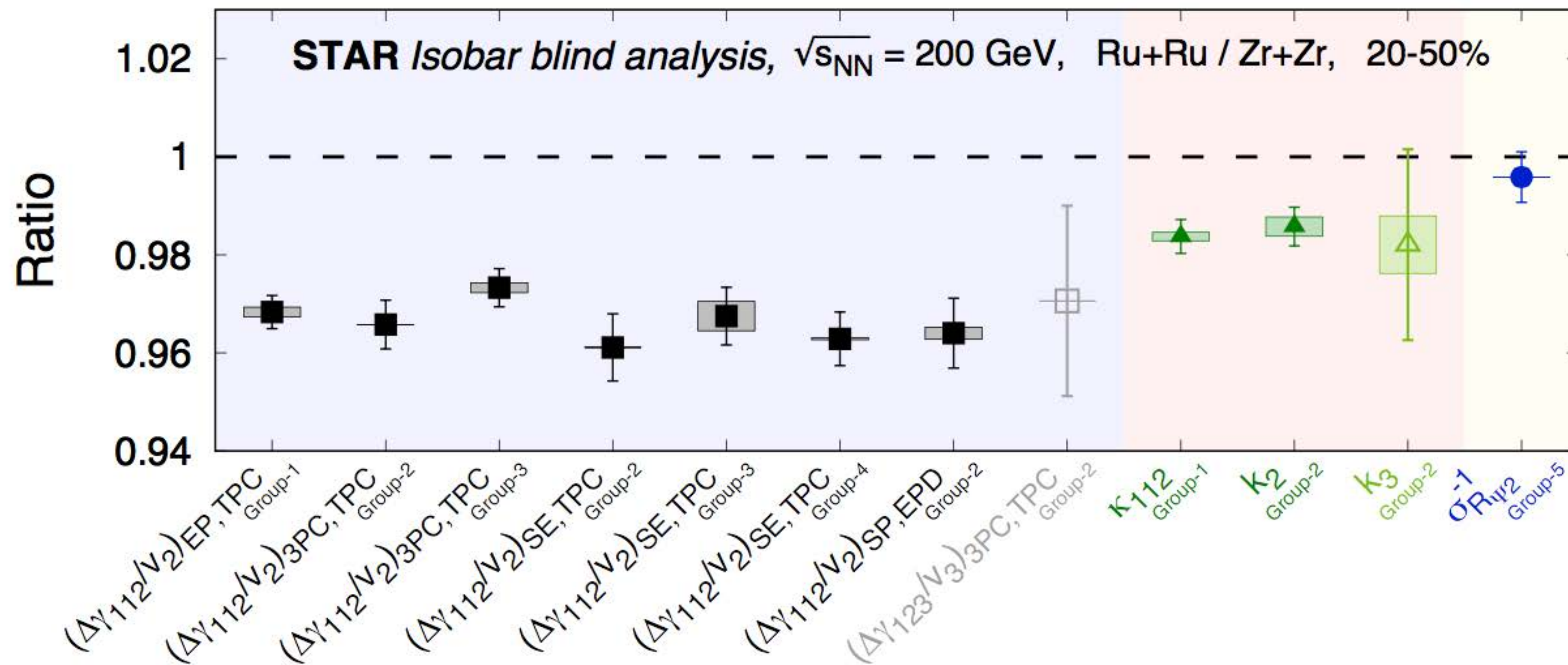
# R variable: an alternate measure of charge separation



Pre-defined CME criteria:  $1/\sigma_{R_{\Psi_2}}(\text{Ru} + \text{Ru}) > 1/\sigma_{R_{\Psi_2}}(\text{Zr} + \text{Zr})$

This pre-defined signature is NOT seen

# Compilation of results



Good consistency between results from different groups.

Predefined CME signatures: Ratios involving  $\Psi_2 >$  those involving  $\Psi_3$ , and  $> 1$

None of the predefined signatures have been observed in the blind analysis

## Modifications to pre-defined CME baseline and upper limit

# Limited Post-blind analysis: modified CME baseline

Challenge: Multiplicity turned out to be different for the two isobar, was not know before blind analysis, dilution of signal & background  $\sim 1/\text{multiplicity}$ , this effect is different for two species

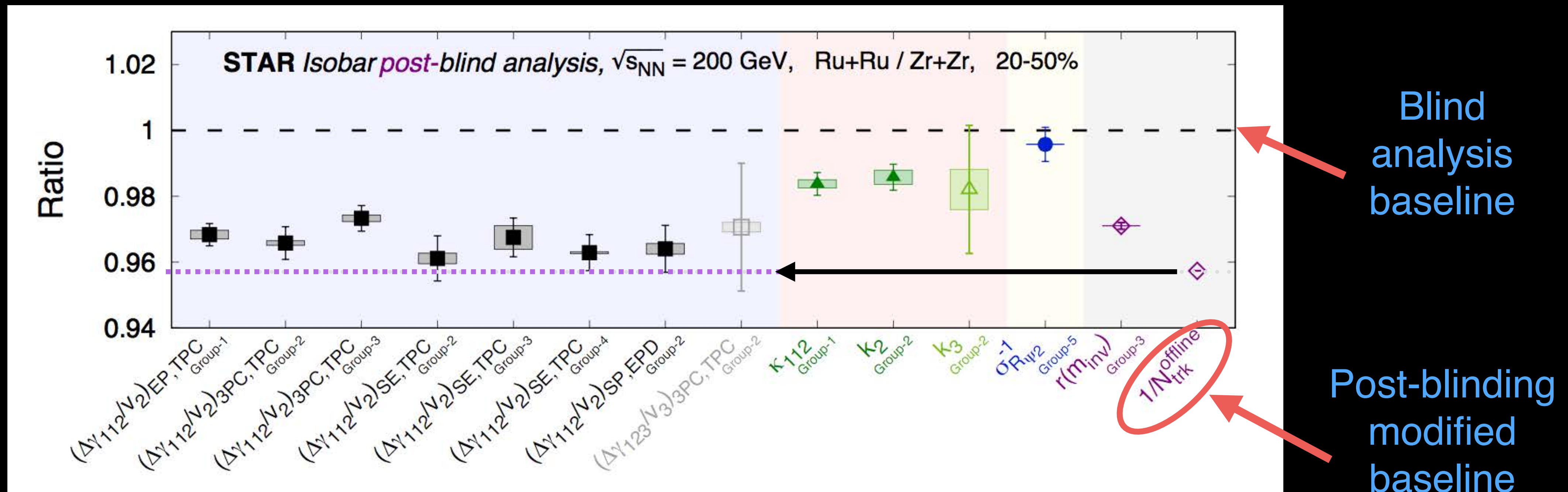
Blind analysis criterion for CME:  $\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{RuRu}}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{ZrZr}}} > 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta\gamma^{\text{Ru+Ru}} &= \Delta\gamma^{\text{CME}} + k \times \frac{v_2}{N} \\ \Delta\gamma^{\text{Zr+Zr}} &= \Delta\gamma^{\text{CME}} + k \times \frac{v_2}{N} \end{aligned}$$

??  $\neq$   $\gg$

Post-blinding criterion for CME:

$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{RuRu}}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{ZrZr}}} > \frac{(1/N_{\text{ch}})_{\text{RuRu}}}{(1/N_{\text{ch}})_{\text{ZrZr}}}$$



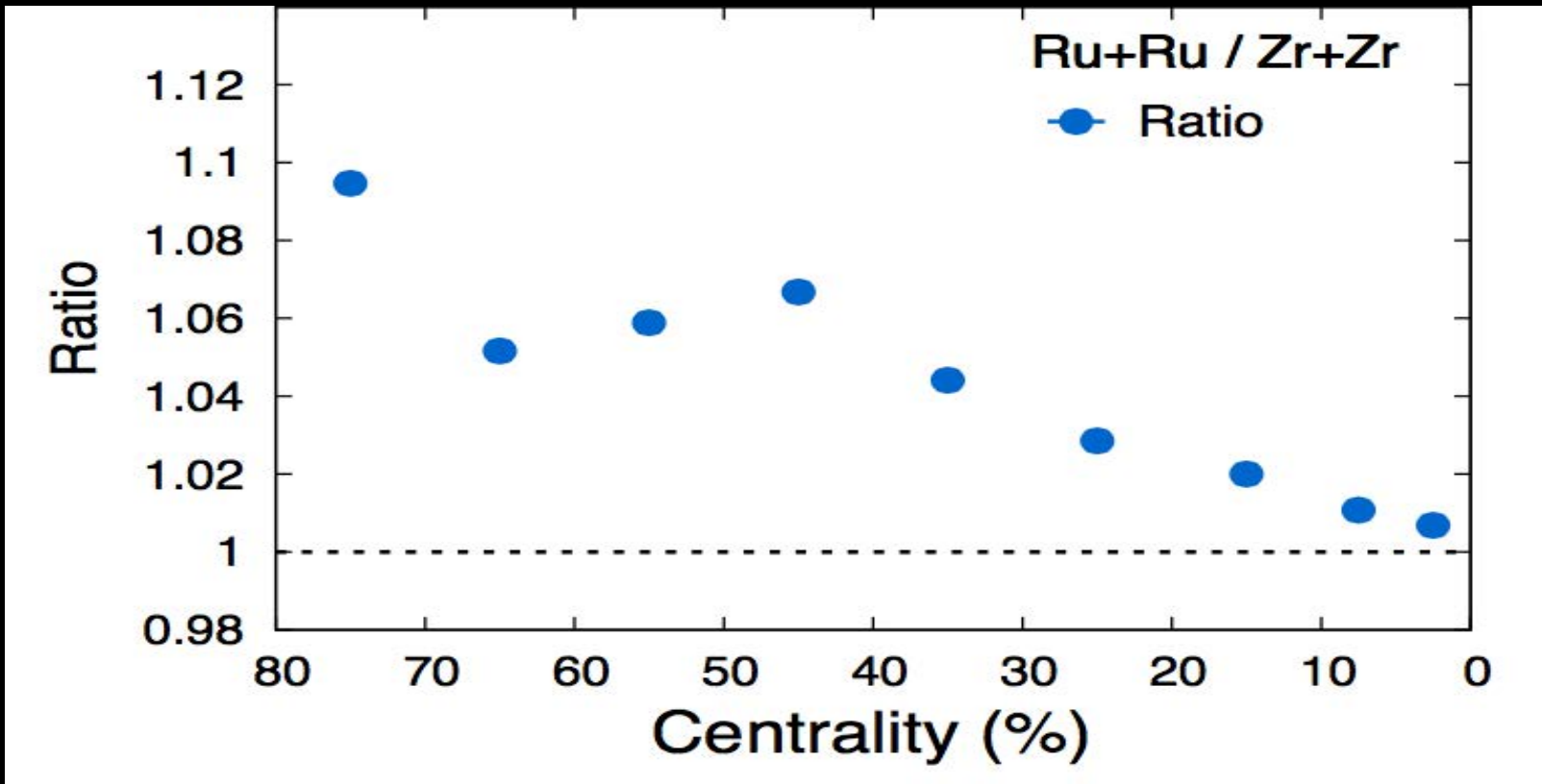
## Some recent exploration, developments and ideas

# Limited Post-blind analysis: modified CME baseline

Sergei Voloshin, DNP  
2021

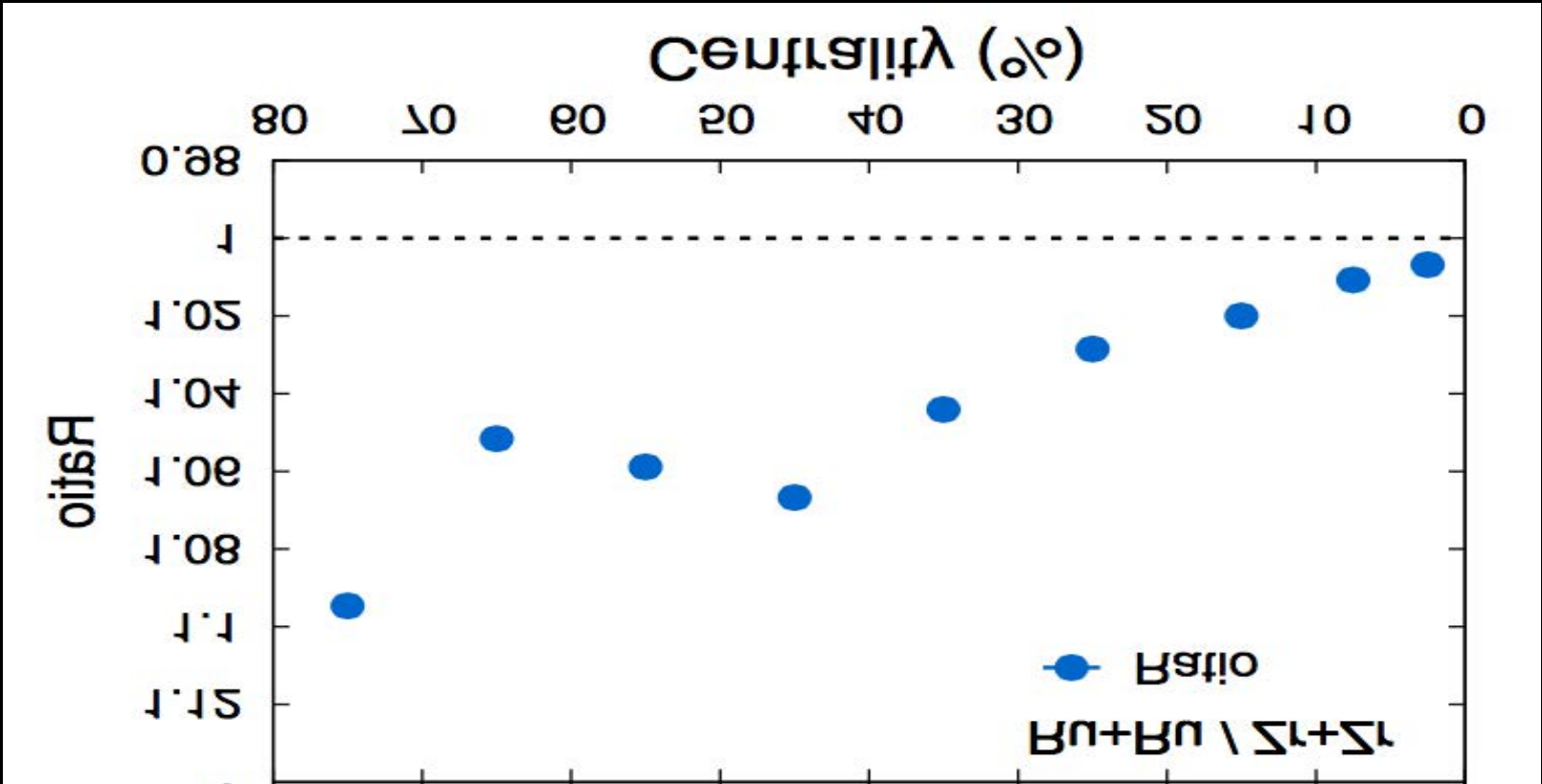
$$\frac{(N_{ch})_{RuRu}}{(N_{ch})_{ZrZr}}$$
 Multiplicity is larger in Ru+Ru

Change of baseline from “1” to 1/multiplicity 
$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{Ru+Ru}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{Zr+Zr}} \leftrightarrow \frac{N_{Zr+Zr}}{N_{Ru+Ru}}$$

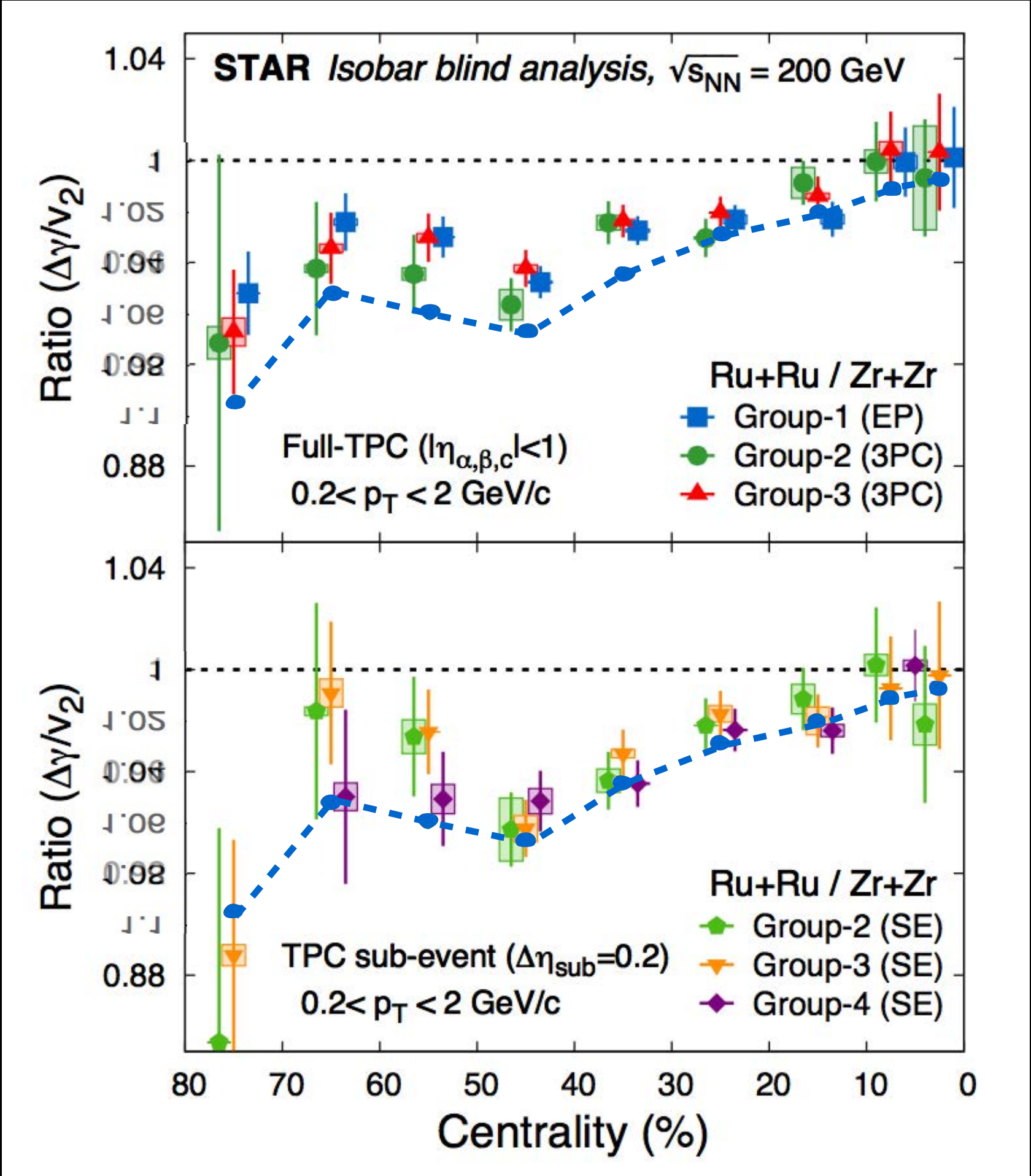


overlay

Flip



Dilution ~ 1/multiplicity is more in Ru+Ru 
$$\frac{(1/N_{ch})_{RuRu}}{(1/N_{ch})_{ZrZr}}$$

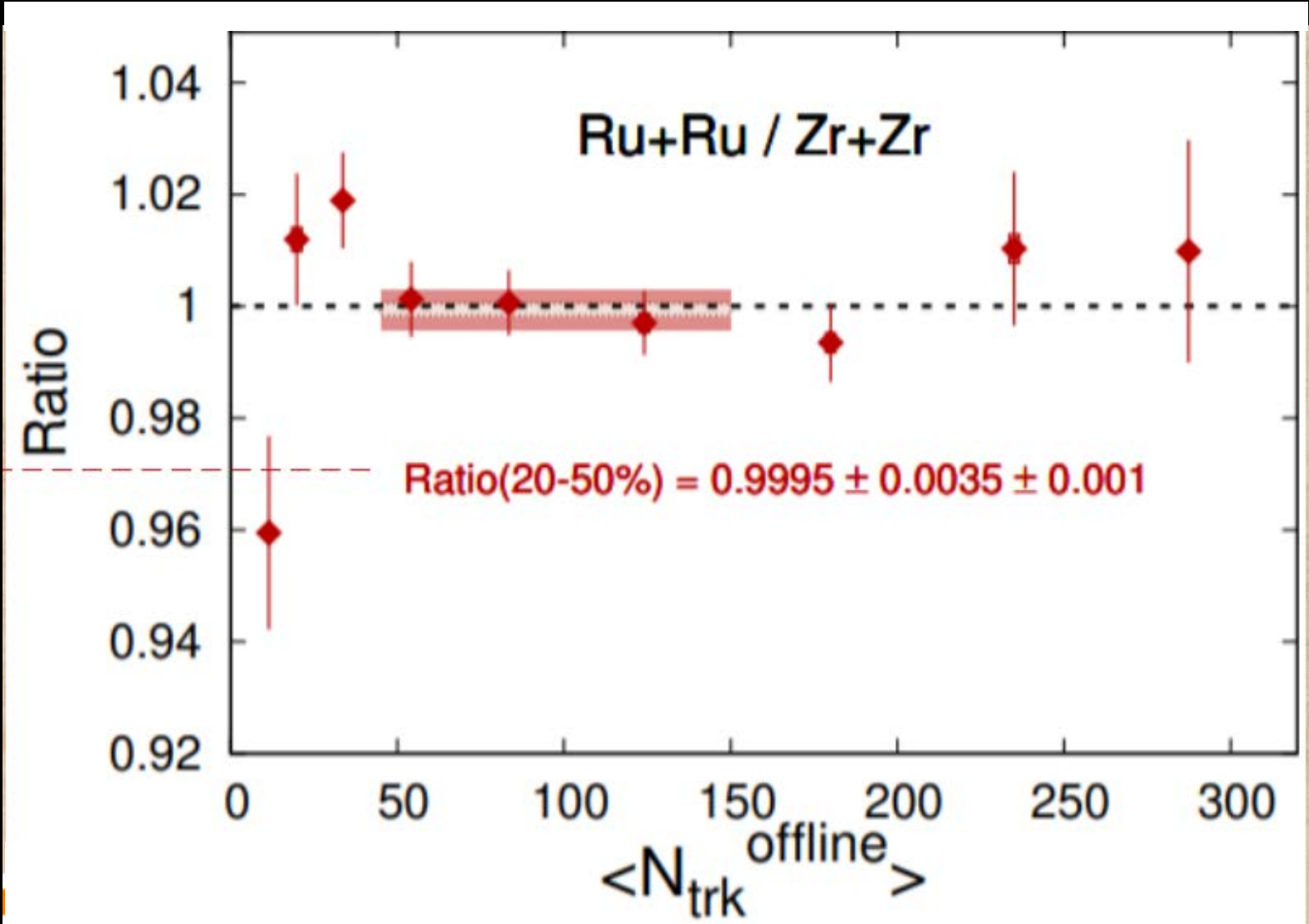


Investigation is on to extract a CME upper-limit

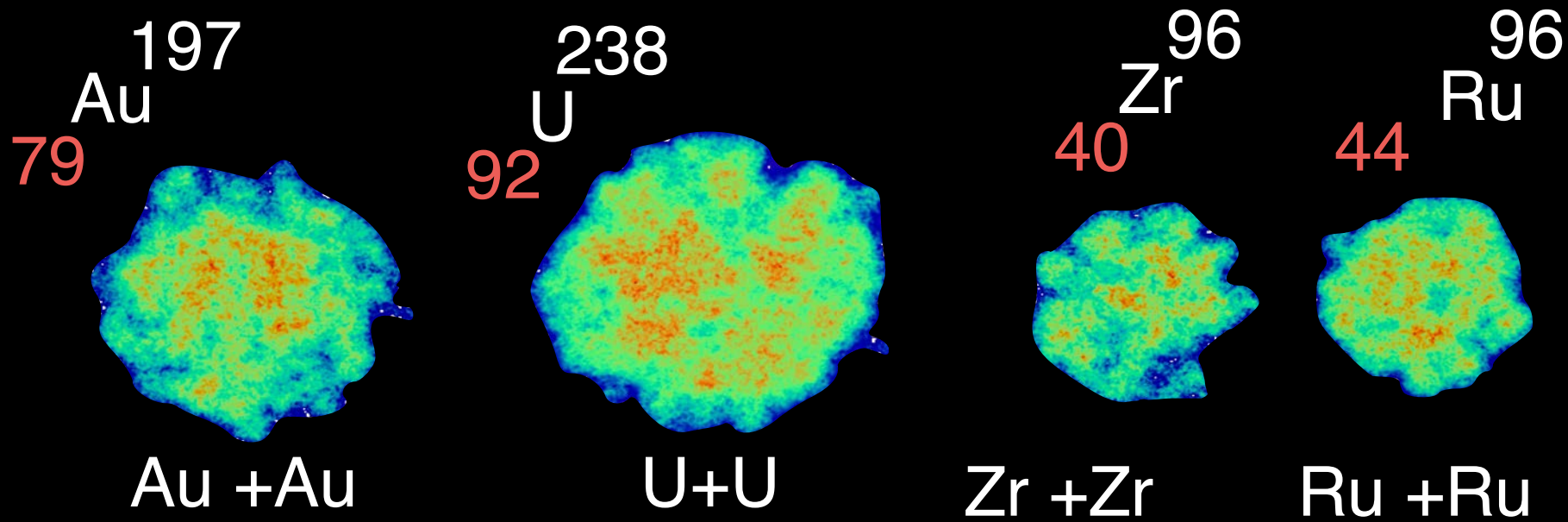
# How to understand isobar results ?

Gang Wang, Chirality workshop, 2021

$$\kappa_{112} \equiv \frac{\Delta\gamma_{112}}{v_2 \cdot \Delta\delta}$$

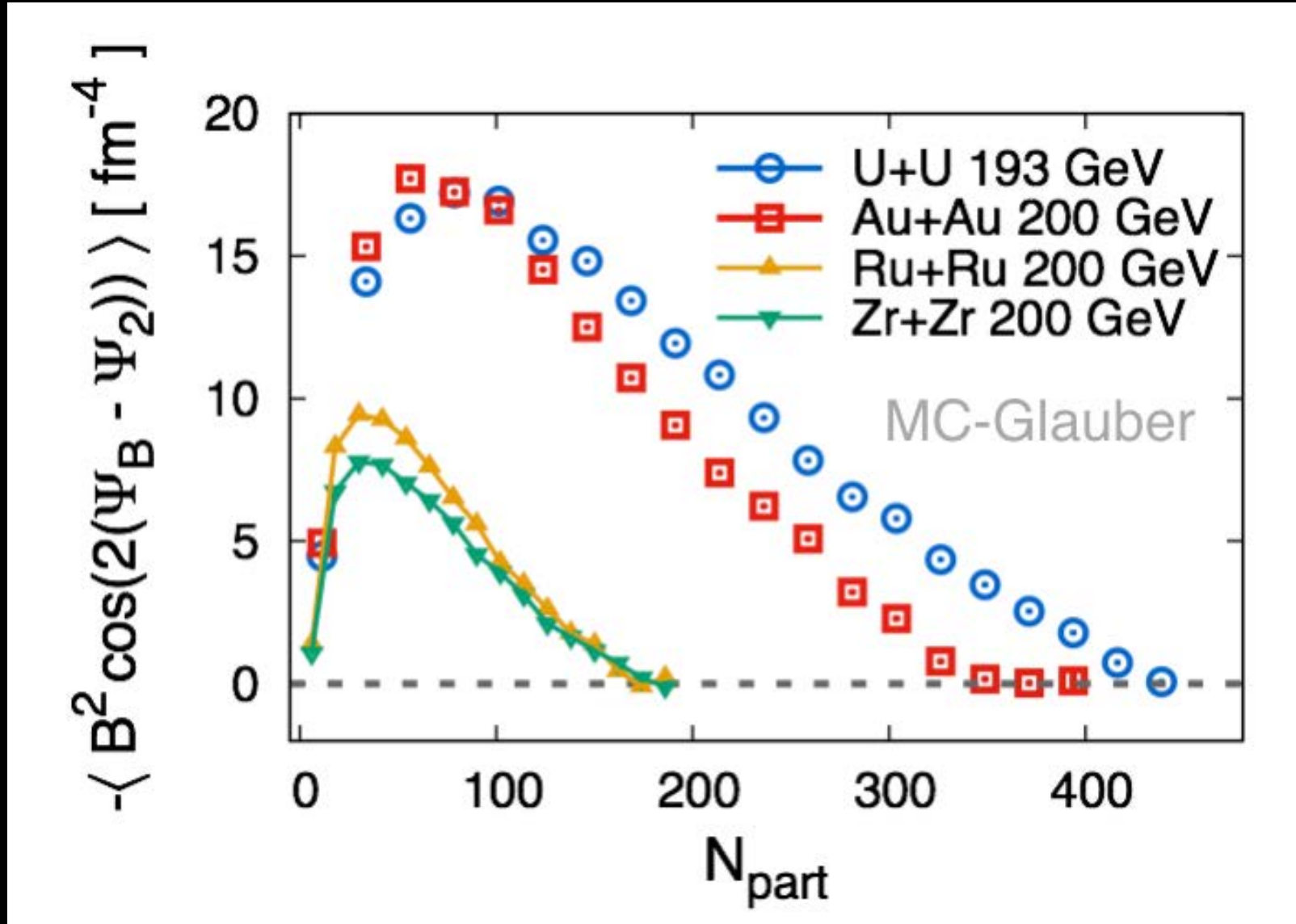


Interpolation (not re-analysis) at same multiplicity

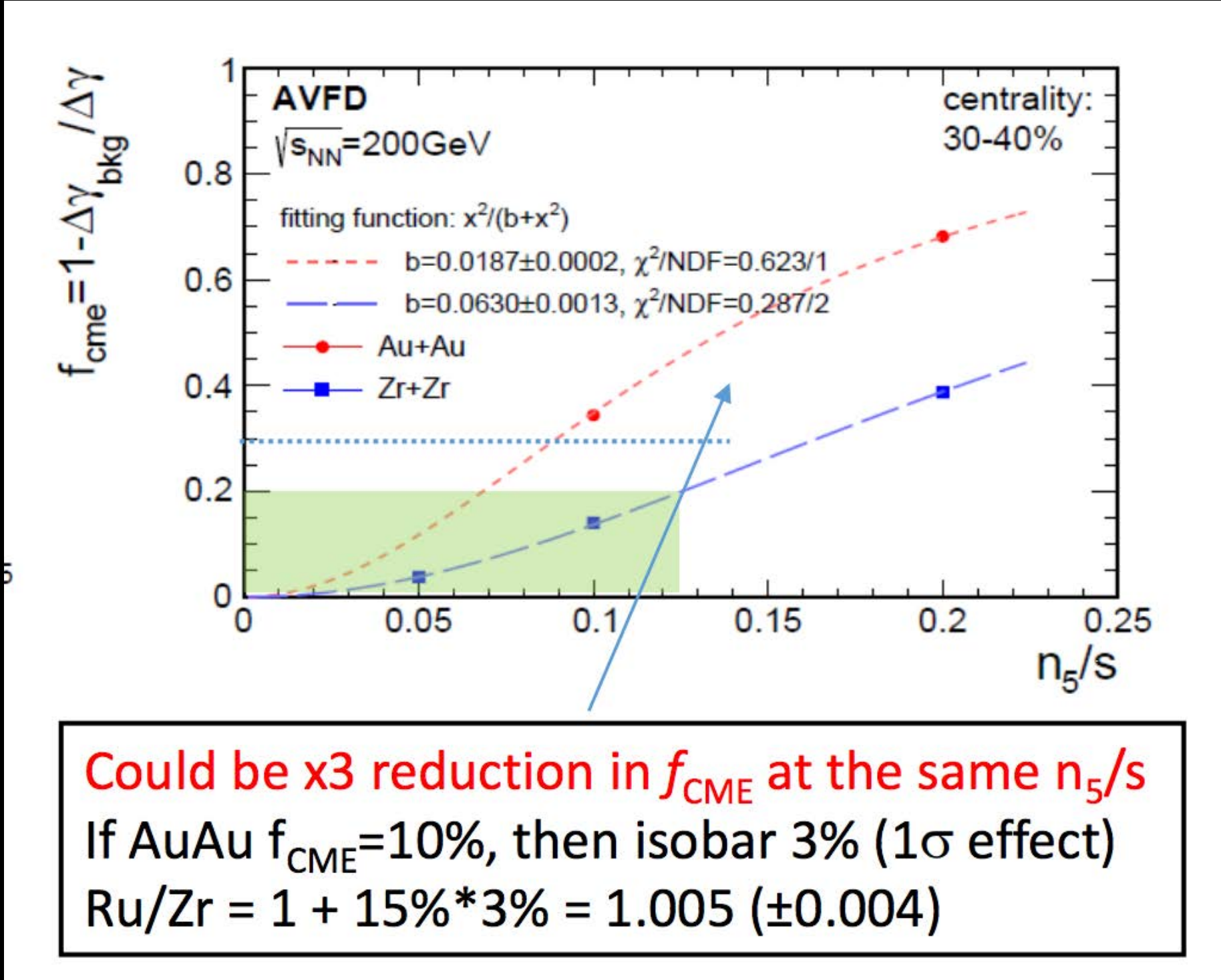


Single (b=0) collision in IP-Glasma model, Ru, Zr parameters : Deng et al PRC 94,041901 (2016)

Fuqiang Wang, Chirality workshop, 2021



B-filed in isobars compared to Au+Au/U+U

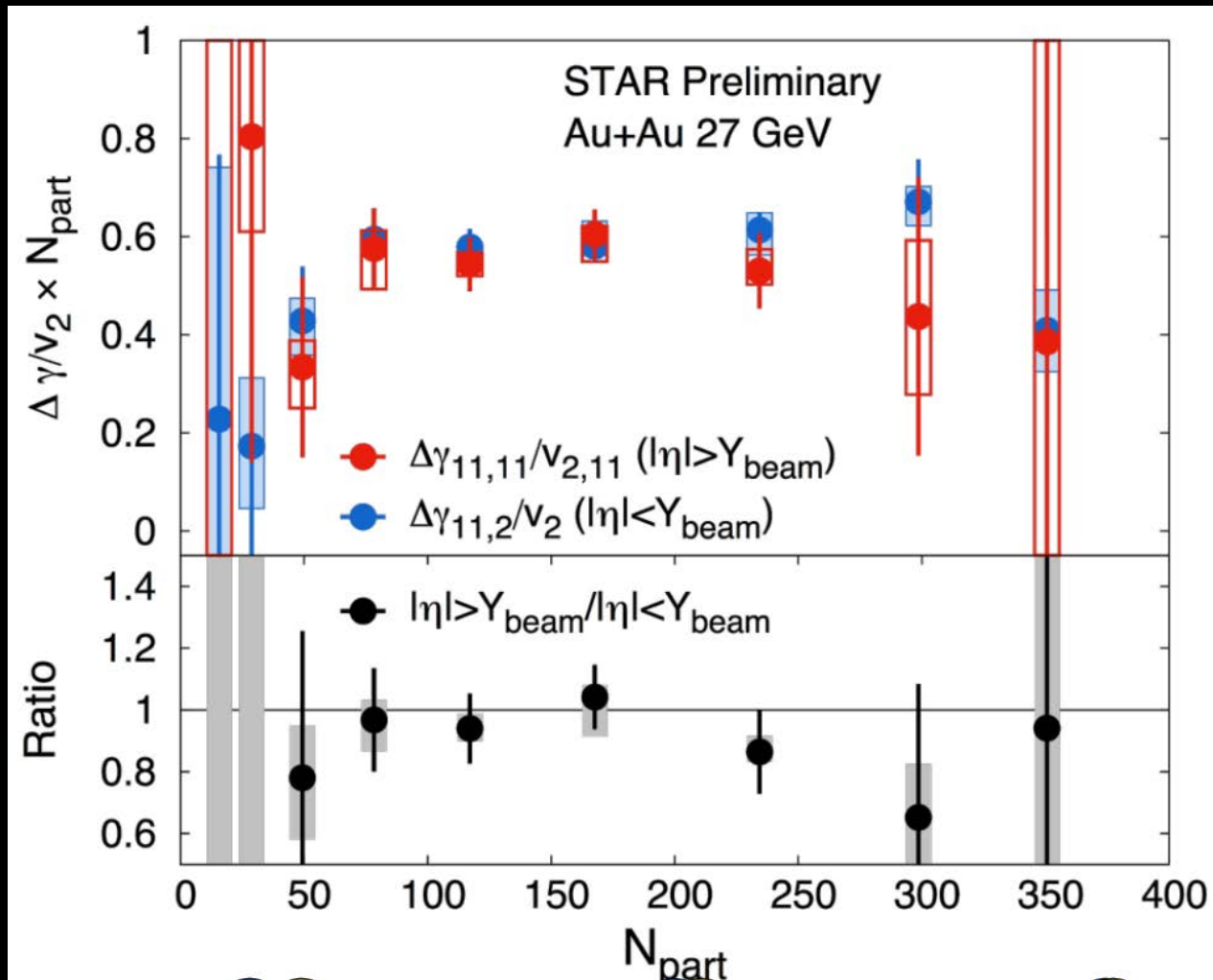
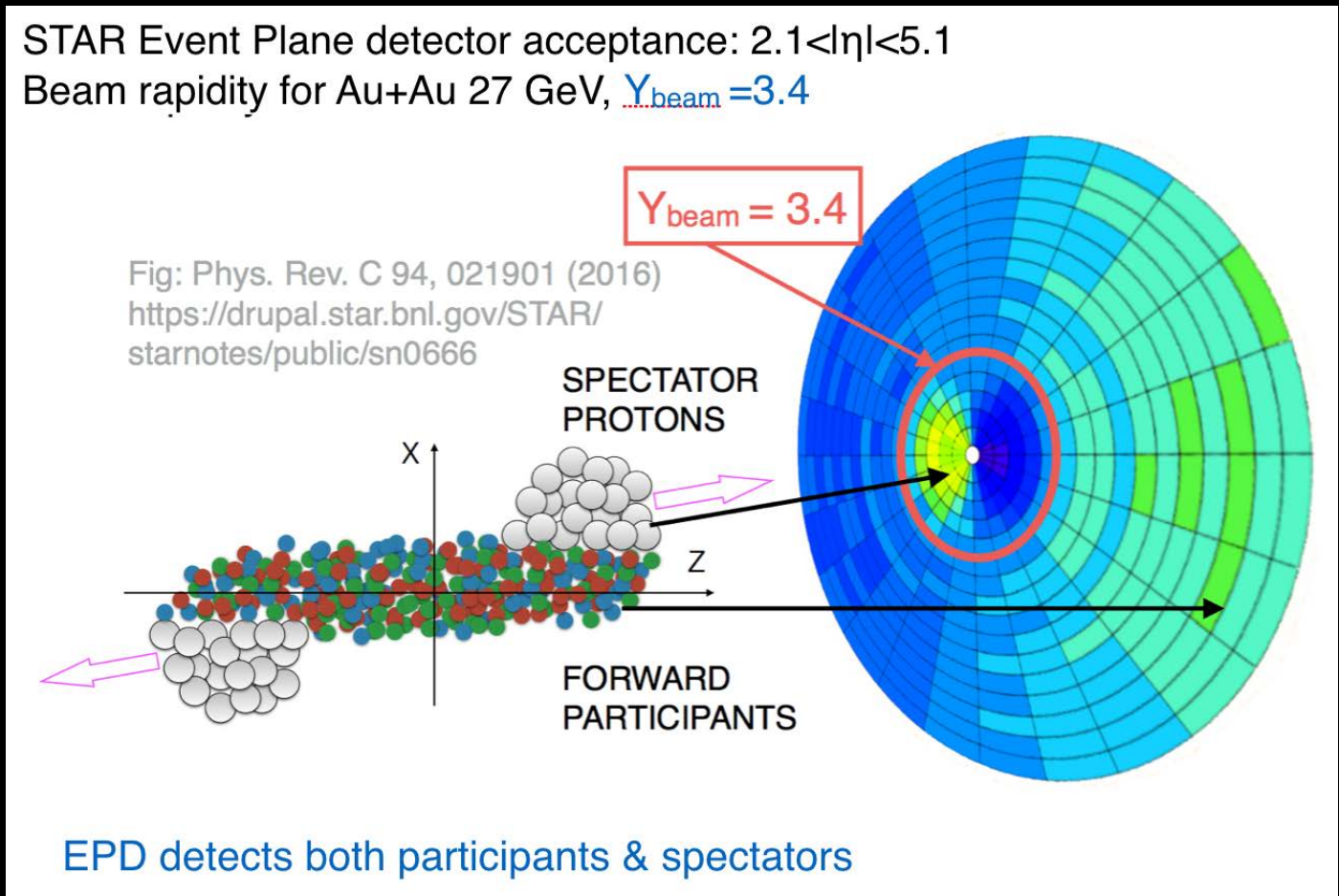


Reduction of signal in isobar system

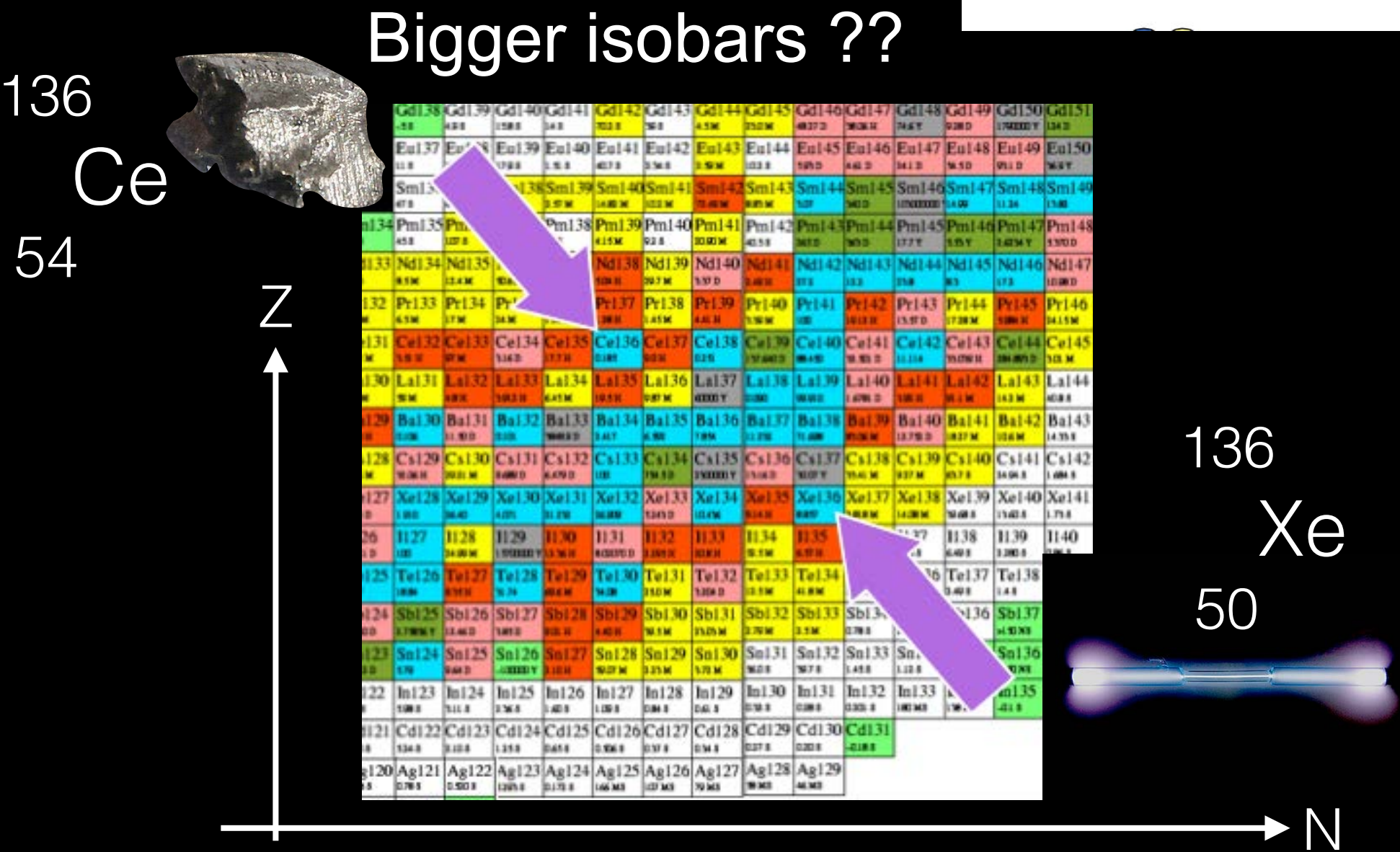
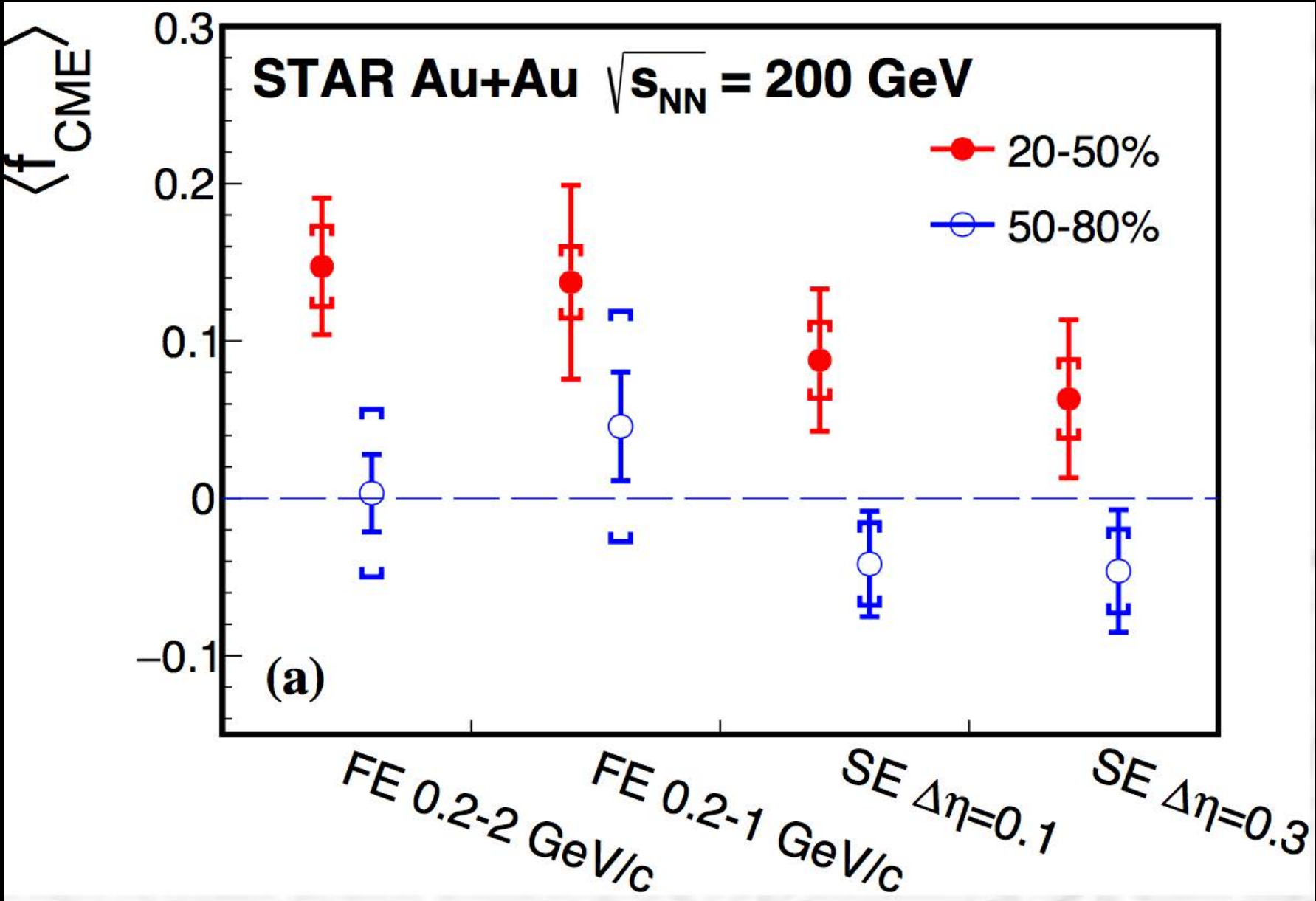
Y. Feng et. al., Phys. Lett. B 820, 136549 (2021), arXiv:2103.10378 [nucl-ex].

# What is the future of CME search?

STAR EPD: better handle on B-field direction (1912.05243) CME @ BES-II data arXiv:2110.15937  
Criticality & CME 2012.02926



High statistics RHIC 2023 run  
CME in Au+Au (2106.09243)



CME search with AIML  
(2105.13761)



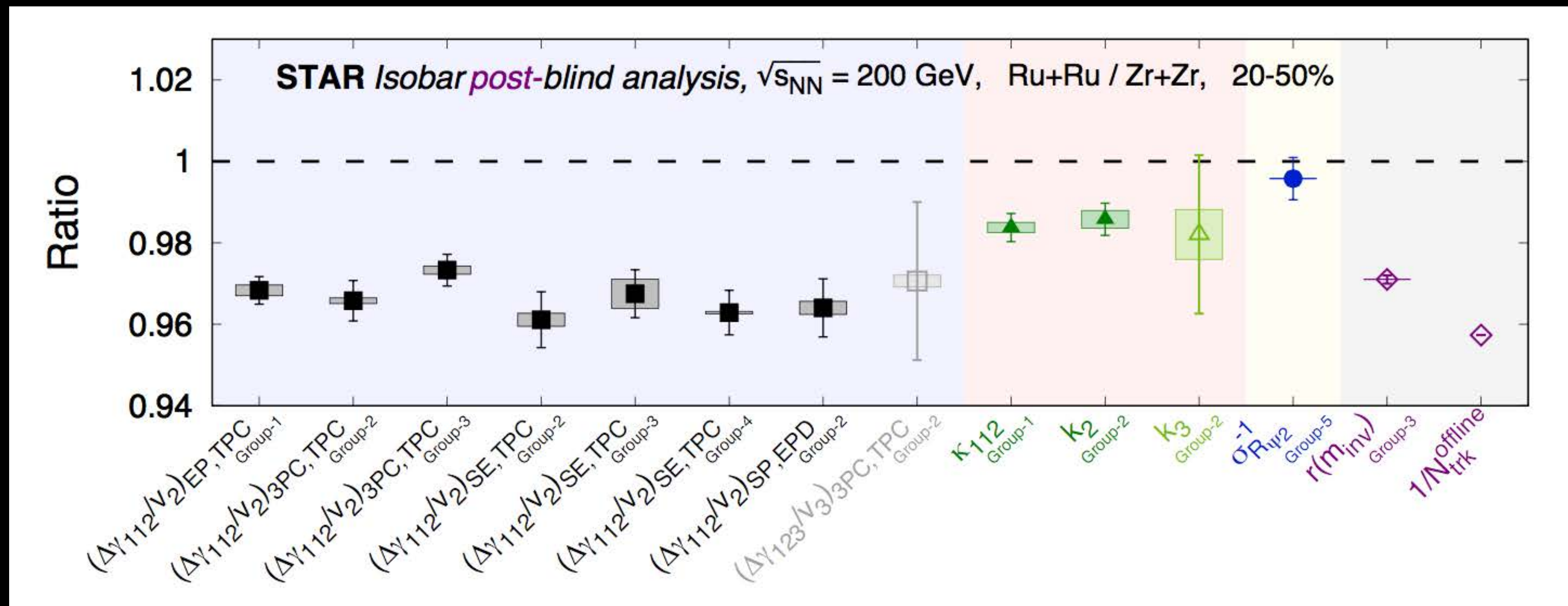
# Summary

Experimental test of CME in isobar collisions performed using a blind analysis

A precision down to 0.4% achieved but no pre-defined signature of CME is observed

Primary CME observable  $\Delta\gamma/v_2$  baseline is affected by the multiplicity difference (4% in 20-50%), post-blind analysis is needed to search for residual CME signal

CME search has been narrowed down, future program will look for upper limit (1% level)



Thank You